

HEEBNER & SONS



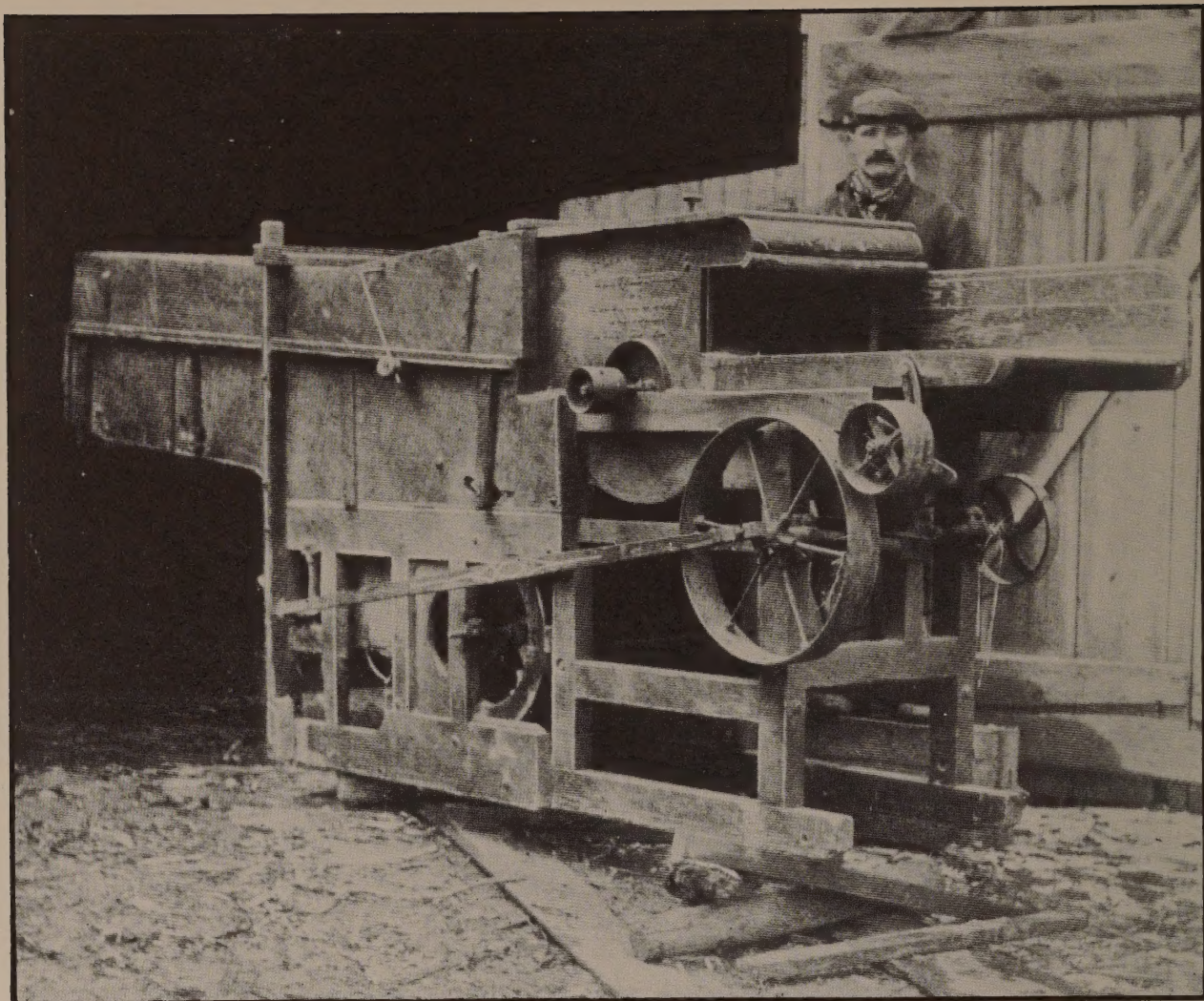
1840

1926

PIONEERS OF
FARM MACHINERY
IN AMERICA

Francis Blase, Jr.

**HEEBNER
&
SONS**



Elmer Bean of Lansdale with early Heebner Thresher

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HEEBNER

&

SONS

PIONEERS OF FARM MACHINERY IN AMERICA

1840-1926

BY

FRANCIS BLASE, JR.

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DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY DONNA BLASE

COVER:

Sam Kriebel of Mainland, Pennsylvania threshing grain with his Heebner Thresher.
Design and Artwork, William Bourne
Photography, Donna Blase

BACK:

Copy of a full color lithograph poster distributed by Heebner & Sons in 1882.
(Original design and printing by Mayer, Merkel & Ottman, New York)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is a year-to-year history of one of America's designers and builders of agricultural machinery. It is an attempt to illustrate the growth of a local Pennsylvania firm, Heebner & Sons of Lansdale, from its beginnings, through the inventive machine age. It ends with the giant assembly line production of the 1930s. In compiling the facts that made this book possible, I wish to thank the following institutions and industries: the Pennsylvania Farm Museum of Landis Valley, Lancaster, Pa.; the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Library, Greenville, De.; the Mercer Museum, Doylestown, Pa.; the Schwenkfelder Library, Pennsburg, Pa.; the Montgomery County Historical Society, Norristown, Pa.; the Lansdale Historical Society, Lansdale, Pa.; the Worcester Historical Society, Worcester, Pa.; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.; the Christopher Dock Mennonite Library, Kulpsville, Pa.; the Delaware Agricultural Museum, Dover, De.; the library of *The Reporter*, Lansdale, Pa.; *The Souderton Independent*, Souderton, Pa.; the International Harvester Company, Chicago, Ill.; the North Penn Water Authority, Lansdale, Pa., and the offices of the Borough of Lansdale.

Particular thanks go to Samuel Kriebel and his son, Roger of Mainland, Pa. who encouraged me to continue with this work and offered much valuable information for its completion. Sam and Roger are extensive collectors of farm machinery, catalogues and gasoline engines. Sam, a farmer of Schwenkfelder descent, is an expert on the equipment that was manufactured at the Heebner works and enjoys sharing his hobby with others.

Special thanks, as well, go to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heebner, Mr. and Mrs. William Heebner-Harr and Mrs. Robert Heebner, Sr., all of Deland, Fla., for their cooperation and contribution of many photographs, deeds, brochures and artifacts of the firm. They have supported my endeavor from the start and corresponded with me by mail, constantly sending pieces of information as they were found.

My appreciation to Joanne Smith, librarian of *The Reporter*, who assisted me in researching the early newspaper of Lansdale. Her efforts and interest in my project contributed valuable information to the completion of this report.

My thanks to Peter C. Erb, Associate Director of the Schwenkfelder Library in Pennsburg and Professor of English and Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ont., Canada for editing my entire manuscript, to Sheila Moore and Charlotte Cox, also of Wilfrid Laurier University for setting the type.

Those who donated items of interest and written information include Mahlon Roth, Lansdale; Oscar Kriebel Jr., Lansdale; Jim Rothenberger, Lansdale; Clifford Moyer, Dublin; Al and Inez Lincoln, Lansdale; Bob Fretz, the *Lansdale Reporter* ; Neal Moyer, the *Souderton Independent* ; Richard Stricter, Lansdale; Mr. and Mrs. Al Philips, Worcester; Mary H. Heebner, Jacksonville, Fla.; J. Donald Heebner, Fairfax Station, Va.; Buella Hofer, Lansdale; Jane Acuff, Lansdale; Ralph Metz, Hazelton; William Anders, Worcester; Viola Anders, Worcester; Roger Heebner, Lansdale; Mabel Heebner Bean, Lansdale; Lester Shultz Heebner, Lansdale; Blair Evans, Lexington Park, Md.; Ann Heebner, Worcester; Dennis Moyer, Pennsburg; Ray Walton, Lansdale.

My thanks to all
Francis Blase, Jr.
Telford, Pa.

Cast of Characters

My research of the Heebner Family and agricultural machinery business covers a period of more than one hundred years, thirty-two in Worcester Township and seventy-two in Lansdale. The following is a list of the characters who were important in the development of the firm of Heebner & Sons:

David S. Heebner (Father)—founder of the agricultural works in Worcester 1840.

Isaac D. Heebner (Son)—partner in the firm and founder of the Lansdale school system.

William D. Heebner (Son)—partner in the firm and sole owner from 1887.

Josiah D. Heebner (Son)—operator of the Worcester machine shop and inventor of the Heebner Level Tread and Governor.

Jacob D. Heebner (Son)—Worcester farmer and teamster for the firm.

T.T. Ridington—original owner of the Lansdale foundry and superintendant of the Heebner foundry for thirty-eight years in 1915.

Nathaniel Metz—inventor, machinist, superintendent of the works for 38 years in 1915.

Edwin K. Kriebel—oldest master machinist with the firm for forty-three years in 1915.

Ambrose K. Geho—superintendent of the shipping department for thirty-eight years in 1915.

Oswin S. Krauss—pattern maker who assisted David S. to build the tower clock; he was with firm for thirty-two years in 1915.

W.H. Printz—superintendent of the woodworking department for thirty-four years in 1915.

William Metz—assistant superintendent of the Heebner works for thirty-four years in 1915

H.Z. Oberholtzer—superintendent of the blacksmith shop for thirty years in 1915.

Chalkey Jarrett—master builder of horse powers—built 110 powers by himself in 1900.

Ira B. Harr—superintendent of the works in the 1920s; son-in-law to William D. Heebner.



David S. Heebner
Founder of the Firm

DAVID S. HEEBNER, 1810-1900

David S. Heebner was born June 25, 1810 and was the fourth generation of descendants from David and Marie Huebner (the spelling in those days), who came as Schwenkfelders from Silesia, Germany in 1734 to escape religious persecution. David S. spent his early days assisting his father, Balthasar, on a farm in Worcester Township, Pa. Balthasar was also the minister of the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church for many years. The records relating to the members and descendants of the Schwenkfelder Society to 1846 were preserved by him in German manuscript. In those early days, few records were kept and Balthasar is credited with saving all previous records and compiling about forty years of research during his lifetime. Without his interest it would have been impossible to compile the present genealogical records of the Schwenkfelders.

On the farm, David S. engaged in the making of clocks and established a reputation as a clockmaker. He farmed until 1840, but, a born inventor and machine maker, he commenced to manufacture farm implements near Norritonville, gradually extending and increasing his facilities until the plant had to be moved to Lansdale and became one of the most widely known agricultural works in the world. David originated the Heebner level tread horse power, a triumph of genius, which made the name of Heebner a household word among farmers in the United States and in Europe, Siberia, South America and Australia. David S. sold his interest in the firm in 1887 to his son, William D. Heebner, who continued to use the name of Heebner & Sons.

David S. was an active Whig and Republican and was commissioned Postmaster of Lansdale by President Harrison in 1891, serving four years. In 1871, when Lansdale was incorporated into a borough, he was elected as its first burgess. He married twice. His first wife was Anna Derstein and had eight children. His second wife, Regina Y. Schultz, daughter of a Berks County Schwenkfelder minister, died January 2, 1898 at eighty-six years of age and to this union but one child was born.

David was an indefatigable worker in his chosen occupation, laboring under great difficulties in the beginning. All the material for his first level tread horsepower was cut with a hand saw. David S. Heebner died May 14, 1900 at the age of 89 years, 10 months and 19 days and was buried in the Worcester Schwenkfelder Cemetery.



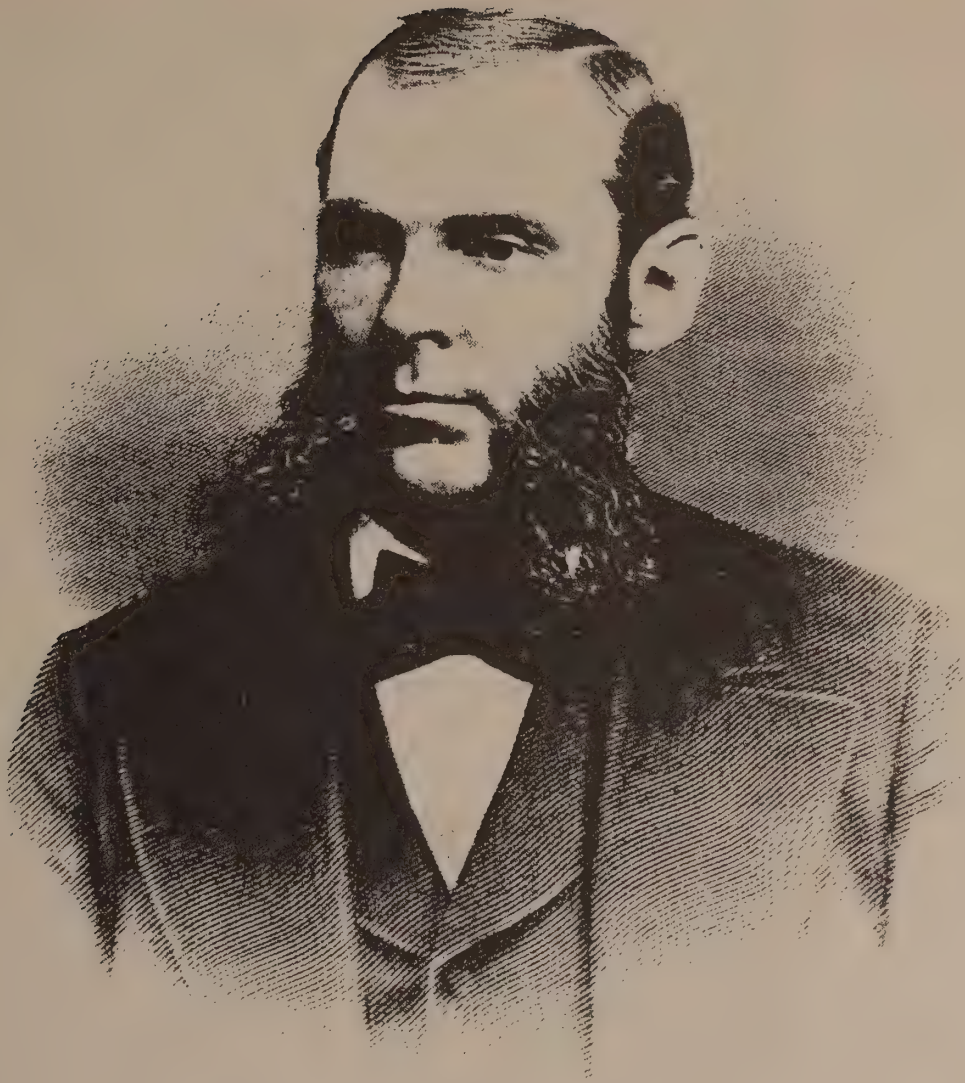
William D. Heebner
Partner and Sole Owner of
Heebner & Sons from 1887-1926

WILLIAM D. HEEBNER, 1848-1933

William was born in Worcester Township, Montgomery County, Pa. on September 27, 1848. He received an education in the public schools, but that process, so far as school books were concerned, ended at the age of fourteen, when he entered the machine shop of his father, David S. Heebner. In 1840 the elder Heebner had established a shop for the production of agricultural machines. In 1862, he admitted his sons, Isaac and Josiah, to partnership. This was the year that William became an apprentice in the factory. In 1863, Isaac Heebner sold his shares of the business to his partners, moved to Lansdale and opened his own repair shop. In 1870, William D. Heebner followed his brother, and together they instituted Lansdale's first major industry, Heebner & Brothers. Two years later, the father, David S. Heebner, joined his sons, and Heebner & Sons was well on the way to becoming a flourishing business which was to last for over fifty years.

As the most active member of this aggressive firm, William D. Heebner was intimately identified with the history of Lansdale from the start. He was one of the thirty-three pioneers who signed the application for a charter in 1872. In 1887, William purchased the business from his partners and became sole owner of the firm until he retired. Aside from the production of agricultural machinery, William had a finger in numerous business and political affairs throughout his long and active life. In the early years he served as a councilman and burgess, as well as two terms in the State Assembly. It was he who introduced the bill which provided for the purchase of Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. He also succeeded his fellow townsman, Dr. John N. Jacobs, as County Controller in 1916. He was the leader in the founding of, and always the spokesman for, the Lansdale Water Company from its beginning in 1884 until the franchise was sold in 1930. William was one of the largest stockholders in the First National Bank of Lansdale, which he served for many years as a director and Vice-President. In 1896 he entered the newspaper business, founding the *Lansdale Republican*, which he continued to publish until it was sold to Chester W. Knipe, of the *North Penn Review*. William devoted much of his time to the business of the Jessup & Moore Paper Company, of which he was treasurer, and of that company's affiliates, The Southern Transportation Company and the Henrico Lumber Company. Their business was the harvesting and transportation of lumber to Maryland and some south Atlantic states. He served as chairman of the draft board for the Lansdale district when America entered World War I. William was a very

active member of the Lansdale Methodist Church which he served as chorister for fifty-eight years. He served as a Director of the People's National Bank of Norristown, Pa., founded and managed the first baseball league in Lansdale in 1907, founded the first fire company in Lansdale, owned the Lansdale Electric Light Company before it was sold to the borough, and started the first shoe factory in Lansdale, the Babcock Shoe Company. He also had many interests in the State of Florida where he spent many months during the winter at his estate in Orange City. William died on February 23, 1933 and is buried at the Lansdale cemetery.



Isaac D. Heebner
Partner in the Firm

ISAAC D. HEEBNER, 1841-1918

Isaac was born on January 18, 1841, the fourth child of a family of eight brothers and one sister. At the age of twenty-one, he was admitted with his brother Josiah into his father's partnership in the Worcester Machine Shop where the elder, David S. Heebner, had been making threshing machines, a business which was started before Isaac was born. In 1863, he sold out his interest and moved to Lansdale to open a small repair shop at the corner of Main and Broad streets, starting in a small framé building about twelve feet by twenty-six feet; here he worked by hand at odd jobs and doing repairs for the neighborhood. He laid the foundation for the firm of Heebner & Sons, although the total income of the firm for the first year was less than \$100.00. In 1870, his youngest brother, William D. Heebner, was admitted into partnership with Isaac under the firm name of Heebner & Brothers. In 1872, David S. Heebner, the father, joined Isaac and William and formed Heebner & Sons.

Isaac remained in the firm until 1887, when he retired from the company, but continued as an employee under the leadership of William D. Heebner who became the sole owner of the firm. Isaac built the beautiful stone mansion which became the Tremont Hotel. This undertaking was an ambitious one, for it was necessary to haul the stone from as far away as Norristown. Later the mansion was sold to Abram G. Freed, who enlarged it and converted it into the hotel. Isaac was chairman of the Lansdale school board from the beginning and he served in this office for over forty years. He was a charter member of the Methodist Church in Lansdale, assisted in building it, became a trustee, served as organist, and for several years after 1876, was its Sunday School superintendent. He also assisted in building the first school house in Lansdale; his entire active career was associated intimately and broadly with educational development. He was one of the originators of the Lansdale Water Company, which he served as vice-president and superintendent. He died on November 17, 1918 and was buried at the Lansdale Cemetery.

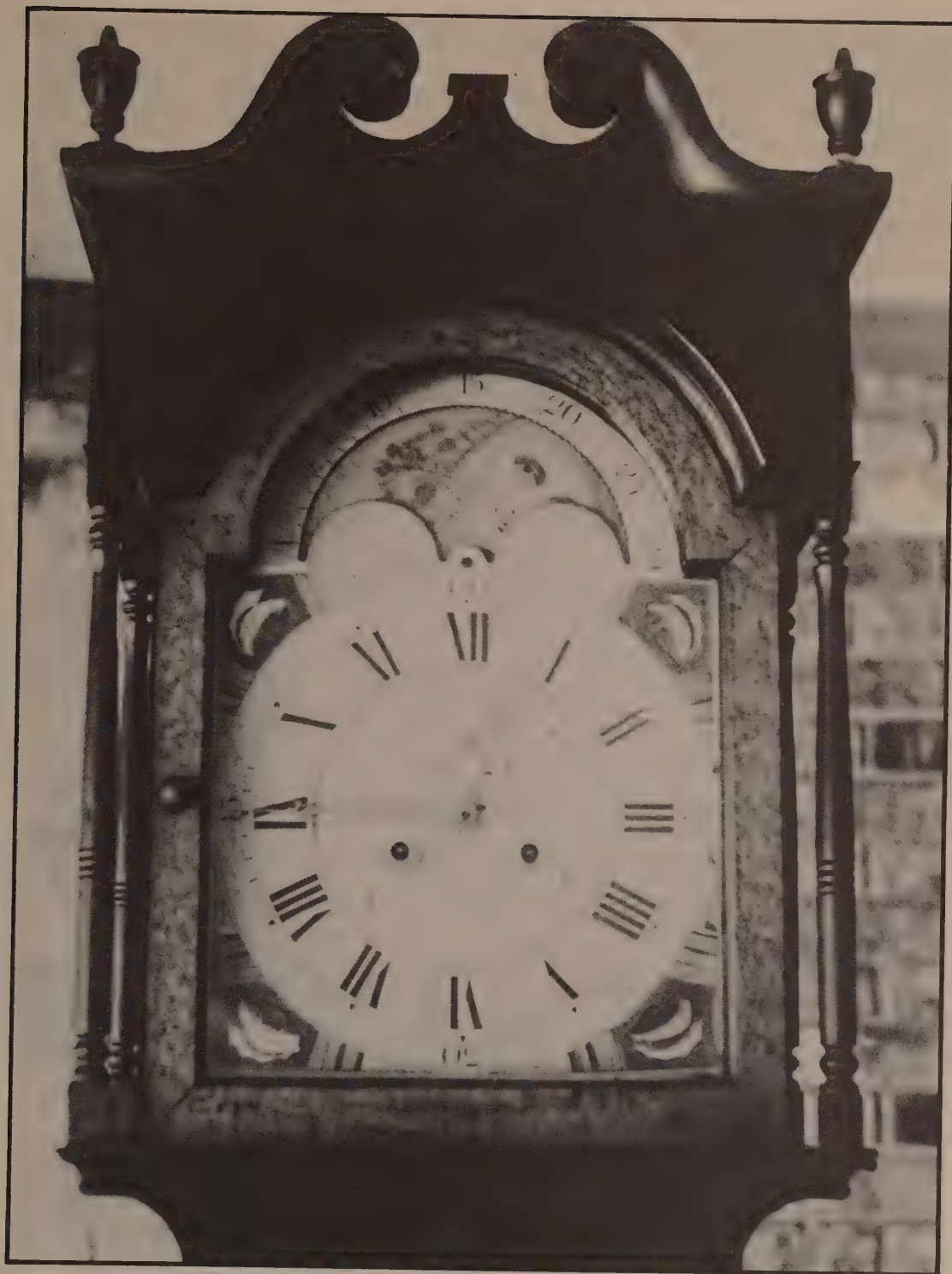
PART I
A History of the Firm

In 1840 when threshing grain by any means other than hand-flails was almost unheard of, and at a time when the far western grain-growing territories remained undeveloped, David S. Heebner, a thirty year old Montgomery County Schwenkfelder began manufacturing farm machinery in Lansdale, Pa. His firm, Heebner and Sons, eventually grew to be recognized in every civilized country on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific. The firm's largest accomplishment was the invention and production of level tread horse powers which were marketed world-wide.

David S. Heebner was born June 25, 1810 to Balthasar Heebner, a Schwenkfelder preacher and ardent collector of Schwenkfelder genealogical materials. Without Balthasar's work in this regard much of the genealogical material would have been irreparably lost. Of a cheerful disposition and active industrial habits, Baltasar always retained the confidence of the entire community in which he lived, and what was said of the father can truthfully be said of the son. David S. was a man of exacting concerns and a citizen of whom his community felt proud. As a youth he made an electric battery and a piano in the evening hours and in the few moments he could spare from the many hours of busy farm life.

A born mechanic, but surrounded by an agricultural environment of the most inviting kind, he gradually let loose the plow handle and took up the file, chisel and lathe. Initially he served his neighbours as a mender and cleaner of watches and clocks and eventually he began to build eight-day clocks. One which he constructed for himself in 1847 was still running in his home at his death in 1900.

In 1832, at the age of twenty-two, Heebner married Anna Derstine, the daughter of Isaac Derstine, of Rockhill Township in Bucks County. On July 23, 1834 he purchased the family homestead for \$5,494.00 and personally looked after the 105 acre farm. The farm was located near the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church off Trooper Road, centrally situated between Pottshop Road and Township Line Road. He and his wife were parents to nine children: Joseph, James, Maryann, Isaac D., Addison, Josiah D., Jacob D., William D., and David.



*Clock Handcrafted
by David S. Heebner*



*Homestead of David
S. Heebner,
Worcester, PA*

Initiating the Firm

In 1840, David S. Heebner entered into an agreement with Philip Hendricks of Worcester to run his farm on shares, so that he could enter into the business of manufacturing farm implements, such as horse powers, threshers, horse rakes, mowers, reapers, fodder cutters, and corn shellers, and of doing general repairs. His neighbors' first knowledge of horse powers was imparted to them when Mr. Heebner and his two brothers-in-law, George Seipt and Joseph Anders, purchased a two-horse power, a Chester county model and a veritable horse killer. It created a sensation among the farmers and conservative people of Worcester Township. Though crude in their construction such horse powers soon became popular among the farmers, who had previously tramped or beaten their grain out with horses and flails. The early threshing machines used with this power had a wooden cylinder with rough teeth driven into the wood as were the teeth of the concaves. Shakers were unknown at this time and the straw and grain was all dumped in a pile at the rear of the thresher. Neighbors finally purchased these machines, and in a short time Heebner was kept busy servicing his machines.

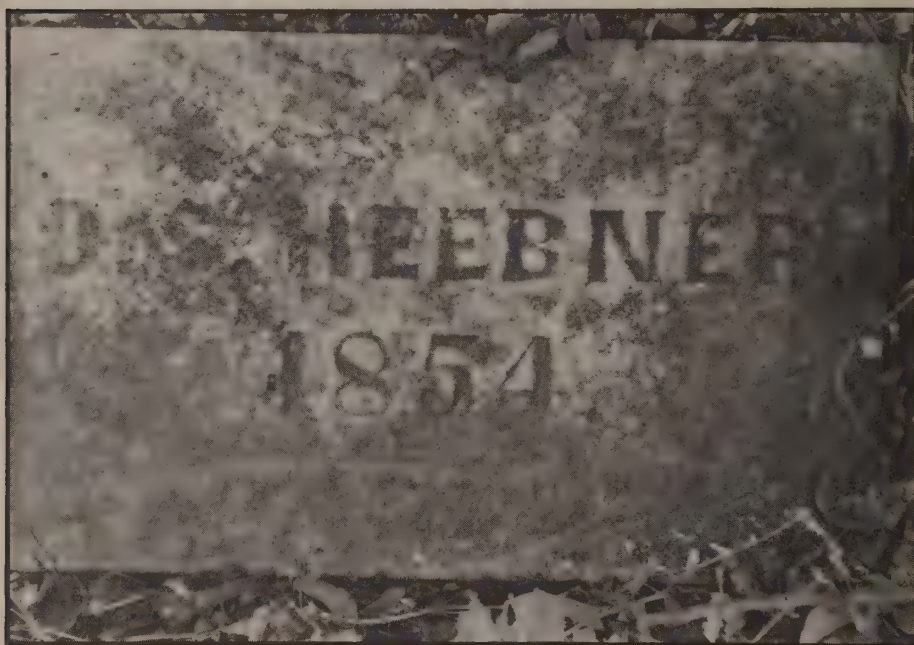
During this time Heebner erected a plaster and chopping mill on his farm and for several years conducted a large business in manufacturing plaster for homes and chopping feed for the local farmers. This business was confined to Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

In 1840, he entered into negotiations with Joseph Ebert of Worcester, a millwright by trade, to form a partnership to manufacture his horse powers and threshers. However, Ebert abandoned the idea and on April 1, 1840, Heebner opened an agricultural machine shop. He immediately procured a set of patterns for his horse power and set to work building the first machine, which was sold to Joseph Allebach of Worcester. The second power was purchased by Reuben Kriebel, who later was employed with Heebner & Sons for over 45 years, and the third went to Mr. Swartzlander of Bucks County. These machines were known as "sweep" power. In the spring of 1841, Heebner made new patterns after having perfected several important improvements on his machines. The style of the power manufactured at this time continued in use until the manufacture of the railway tread power was commenced. During the first year of Heebner's business he employed no one and in the second year one person, Daniel Shuler, who eventually became a director of the poor of Montgomery county. In those days, no machines were built unless ordered and none were kept in stock. It took about six weeks to build

one machine. This was the beginning of the famous Heebner agricultural plant which in 1883 built two similar machines in one day and which eventually gave to the world the Heebner "Level Tread" horse power; a machine which recorded the climax of Heebner's ingenuity and soon gained a local and worldwide reputation.

Early Growth

On March 31, 1850, David S. sold his farm to Samuel Y. Kriebel, reserving for himself about eleven acres on which was erected another plaster and chopping mill which was two and one-half stories in height and made of brownstone. This mill was on the borders of East Norriton and Worcester Townships, close to a small stream, the headwater of which was the spring of his old homestead, a short distance north of the new shop. Mr. Heebner secured the water rights to insure a supply of water to run the machinery in the new building. The water traveled from the old homestead along a millrace to the shop on Township Line road. He then erected a dwelling next to the mill later to be occupied by his son, Josiah D. Heebner. David also purchased a farm of twenty-seven acres across the road from his new mill which was eventually purchased by his other son, Jacob D. Heebner, who remained on this property as a farmer.



*Cornerstone of David
S. Heebners' Home*



*Home of David S.
Heebner, 1854*

David's wife, Anna, died April 18, 1853, and on September 7, 1854, he married Regina Schultz by whom he had one child, Abraham, who died at the age of five. Regina was the daughter of Rev. Christopher Schultz, a Berks County Schwenkfelder minister, and his wife Susanna.

In 1862, Isaac and Josiah Heebner were admitted into partnership with their father at his Worcester machine shop. The firm then engaged in the manufacture of mowing machines and horse rakes. They manufactured the first two-wheeled mower and reaper built in Pennsylvania (It was done under a Ball patent). Heebner was licensed by the Ball Firm with the understanding that if the machines were not as good as the ones built in the main shops of the Ball company, the license would be revoked. When the inspector from Ball arrived, he pronounced Heebner's machines the best he had seen outside of Ball's own shops. Ball had licensed parties in different states to manufacture their machines under the same contract.

In 1862, David S. Heebner sold fifteen horse powers and threshers, ten mowing machines and reapers and a few fodder cutters. The manufacture of mowers and reapers, horse rakes, threshers and shakers continued until 1870, when the mowers and reapers were dropped and the celebrated level tread horse powers were substituted. The first power of this kind was designed and built by David S. Heebner and his son, Josiah D. Heebner in Worcester Township in 1870. The machine proved a partial success, a patent was taken and the manufacturing continued until 1872 when Heebner moved to Lansdale with his sons.

A few years earlier, in 1868, David S. and Josiah D. Heebner purchased the interest of Isaac D. Heebner, who moved to Lansdale, Pa., to open a machinery repair shop. Isaac bought the corner of Main and Broad Streets along the North Penn Railroad lines from Joel Wertz and proceeded to build a small repair shop, twelve by twenty-six feet in the rear of his home, the only house in Lansdale east of the railroad track except for the old Jenkins Farm. This part of the main street was at that time a thicket of briars and bushes. Isaac and his father felt that it was necessary to be located at a railroad point to successfully conduct the business of selling and repairing agricultural machinery. When the Stoney Creek Railroad, chartered April 4, 1868 and opened for traffic January 1, 1874, was about to be constructed from Norristown to Lansdale, David S., who continued to conduct his business in Worcester, made every effort to have the engineers run the new lines by his shop on Township Line Road on the way to Lansdale. He was unable to convince the company, although he was one of the railway's new board of directors. Since the railroad

would not come to the Heebners, the Heebner's did the next best thing—they went to the railroad. In 1870, William D. Heebner, a junior member of his father's firm, went to Lansdale from Worcester and entered into partnership with his brother, Isaac, to establish a larger manufacturing operation siding on the North Penn Railroad to Philadelphia. The new partnership opened in Lansdale under the name of Heebner & Brother. At this time there were two Heebner machine shops, one in Worcester run by David S. Heebner and his son, Josiah D., and the newly opened works at Main and Broad Streets operated by Isaac and William. The following January, H.K. Kriebel was admitted into the Lansdale partnership and opened a branch house at Ambler Station in Ambler, Pa. The firm's name changed to Heebner, Bro.& Company and another branch was opened in Dublin, Pa., to service all the Bucks county farmers.

Heebner, Sons & Company, 1872

In the spring of 1872, David S. Heebner sold his mill, home and about three acres of ground to his son, Josiah, and moved to join his sons in Lansdale, where he became the senior member of the firm; again the company name changed, this time to Heebner, Sons & Company. It was at this time that the Heebners decided to make a specialty of their patent level tread horse power since demand for it was on the increase.

Josiah D. Heebner continued to live and operate the original machine shop in Worcester under the name of The Heebner Machine Shop until his death in 1909. Josiah D. is credited with the invention of the level tread on the horse power and also the governor which controlled the speed of the power. He sold his patents for these items to his father and brothers in Lansdale, Heebner & Sons, who introduced and popularized his invention to the entire civilized world.

Upon arriving in Lansdale, David S. built a new home at the south east corner of Main and Broad Streets, directly across the street from his son, Isaac. This home eventually became known in town as The Eitherton Hotel after the elder Heebner's death.

In 1872, Lansdale was incorporated as a borough and David S. was honored by his fellow citizens who elected him as their first Chief Burgess.

Of David's nine sons, only four grew to maturity. Three of these, Josiah, Isaac and William, were gifted mechanical geniuses. The other son, Jacob D., whom the brothers tried to persuade to join them in their mechanical enterprise, refused to be involved and



*The Eitherton Hotel,
Built by David S.
Heebner, Lansdale, PA*



remained in Worcester as a farmer. He did assist Heebner & Sons by hauling the lumber needed in the manufacture of their farm machinery with a heavy four horse team from Chester County to Lansdale. He did this for the firm until the lumber could be transported by the railroad.

About the time David S. Heebner arrived in Lansdale, his sons had just completed building a new and larger works on the south west corner of Main and Broad Streets. It contained all new machinery for wood and ironworking. The new building was ready to operate on April 1, 1872. Heebners' new building was 40 feet wide, 60 feet long, and three stories high. In it they placed an engine of twenty horsepower and fitted all their machines to be run by steam. From the number of boring, mortising, planing and drilling machines that were carted into the building, one would suppose that they were trying to see how many could be stored in it, but anyone looking into their establishment found that each machine, as it arrived, was carefully put up and immediately made use of. When completed, Heebner and Sons turned out more work than any other firm of its class in Philadelphia. The new machinery gave the firm a great advantage in manufacturing agricultural machines and in producing other general machine work in iron, steel or brass, such as steam engines and mill gearing.

On the ground floor of the new three story substantial brick warehouse was the office of the firm, containing a well finished and cheerful room. Adjoining this room was a wood or timber room, a sample room filled mostly with mowers and reapers. The second floor was entirely occupied by the celebrated horse powers and threshing machines in finished working order. The third floor was used as the painters' room, where machinery would receive the final finishing touches. The attic was crowded with parts of machinery ready to be assembled. The main feature in this building was the railroad car, which was run into the works from the switch in connection with the North Penn Railroad, thereby greatly facilitating the loading and unloading of material. A hoisting crane, which was installed in the attic, raised and lowered the machinery on and off the track car with great ease.

The horse power and threshing machine (on the Ellis Plan) was greatly improved during the 1872 season. The improved track or floor of the horse power, of which the firm held the patent, was alone worth the use of the machine. It was constructed so that the horse stood perfectly level when the horse power was elevated. The Heebner level tread power was wider than others, allowing more space for the horse to work. The lags on which the horse walked were level,

allowing the horse to place its feet in a natural position and enabling it to use all its power in propelling the machine without losing any in keeping a foothold. The level lags also rendered it unnecessary to keep the horse shod; in fact, it was better not to have it shod at all, thus avoiding wear on the lags. The horse power also had a governor to regulate the speed of the machine. The new improved track gave the horse more ease in working so as not to injure its legs by an unaccustomed step. Some farmers took advantage of this new track by having their old floors and chains removed and the new track installed in its place.

The thresher was also improved that year and would now thresh 2000 sheaves of wheat in ten hours with the use of only one horse. The thresher would also thresh and clean oats ready for market at a rate of 600 bushels per day.

The firm also sold a large stock of mowing and reaping machines, horse-drawn hay rakes, hay forks and pulleys, cucumber wood and pumps. These items were also sold at the Ambler Station warehouse, operated by H.K. Kriebel, partner in the firm.

Heebners' thresher and cleaner, the Pennsylvania, competed in a trial run in 1872 against a Collegeville Manufacturing model owned by Roberts of Collegeville, Pa., who made the Dwarf Thresher Machine. One hundred farmers attended the competition at the farm of Charles M. Hunsicker near Rahn Station on the Perkiomen Railroad. The contract was given to Heebner & Sons on the evening of the trial. In threshing rye, the Heebner Machine threshed 50 large sheaves in eleven and one half minutes; Roberts', threshing the same number in eleven and one quarter minutes. Roberts' thresher, however, wasted five pounds of grain (carried over the shaker into the straw) and five and one half (blown over the scives in the Shaff), while Heebners' only wasted one quarter pound of grain in straw and chaff. In threshing wheat, Heebner's threshed their allotted quantity in four and one half minutes while the Roberts' machine needed six and one half minutes. Hunsicker kept the Heebner or Pennsylvania thresher and all interested farmers watching gave approval for the Heebner thresher.

In the same year, the firm exhibited a large variety of their machines at the eighth annual fair held in Doylestown, at the Agricultural and Mechanical Institute, and at the State of Virginia Agricultural Society where they received a medal awarded to them at the fair held in Richmond in November for the best horse power. The firm also exhibited the Eureka Mower at the East Penn Fair held in Norristown, Pa., and took first prize. Especially important was the mower's center draft, making it lighter for the horses and leaving the



The Heebner Works, 1872



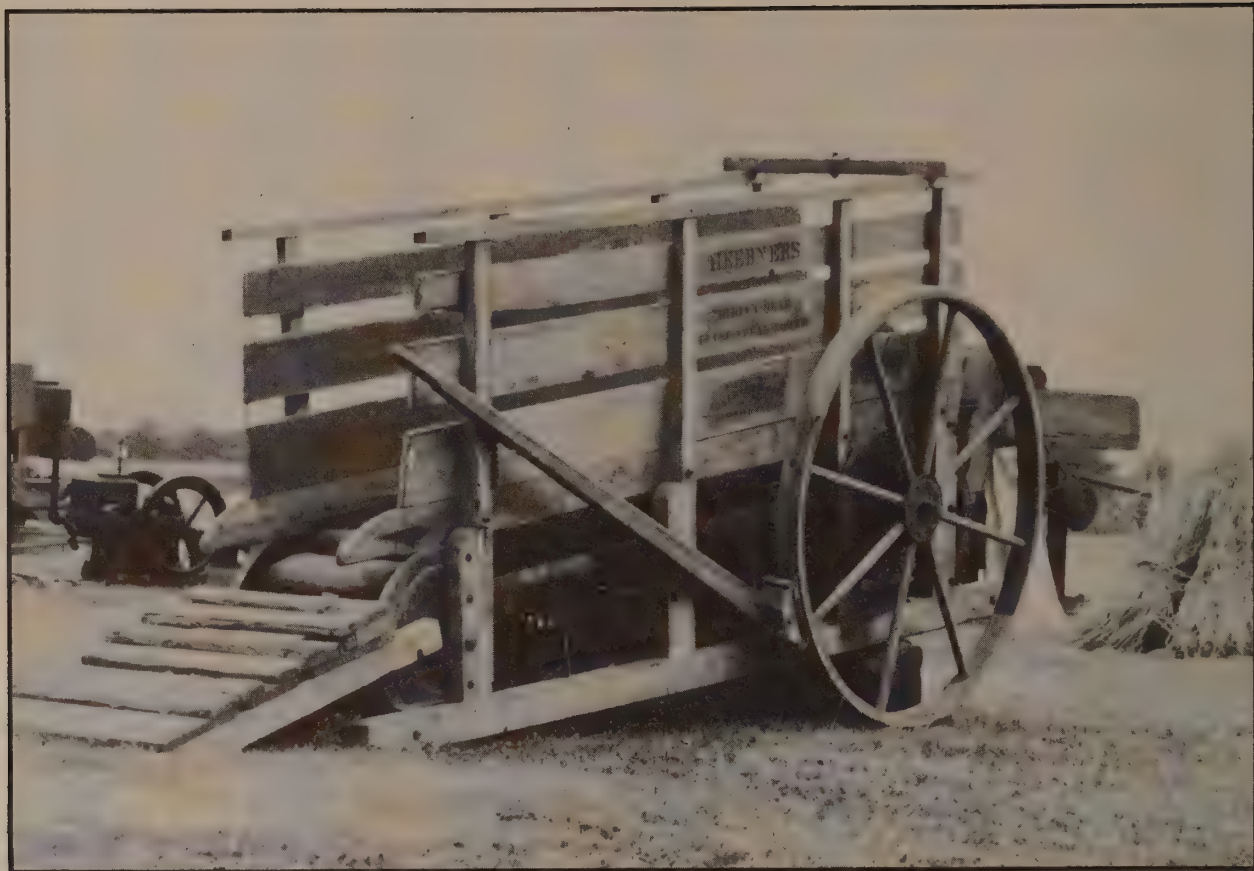
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MANUFACTORY. HEEBNER & SONS.
Lansdale Montgomery Co. Pa.

*The Heebner Works,
1872 (Montgomery
County Atlas)*

grass in better condition for curing. At East Penn they also exhibited The Hubbard Mower and Reaper and the Johnston Rake, which had two motions, fast and slow. Hubbard's Meadowlark Mower was a curiosity and a very small machine weighing about 500 pounds. Heebner's also exhibited their own improved horse power and thresher.

Heebner & Sons, 1873

In the fall of 1873, the Heebners purchased the interest of Kriebel and the firm resolved itself into the name of Heebner & Sons. On February 25, 1875 they purchased the old Chestnut Street foundry from T.T. Ridington, and started to produce their own castings. They also started to manufacture iron fence for residential use in Montgomery and Bucks counties.



*Heebners' Level
Tread Horse Power*

David S. Heebner displayed to the citizens of Lansdale a model of his patent level tread horsepower, which was entirely hand crafted by him. The miniature model was a splendid piece of workmanship, beautifully painted and was to be shipped to one of the firms' agents in New Brunswick, Canada, for the purpose of soliciting orders in that region. This model is presently owned by the Schwenkfelder Museum in Pennsburg, Pa., along with a companion model of the threshing machine. Both models are in excellent condition and measure about twelve inches in length.

In Norristown, David S. Heebner, senior member of the firm, was elected president of the Farmers' Market House at a meeting of stockholders held on January 11, 1875 in the Public House of Nathan Schultz.

In 1875, Josiah D. Heebner of the Worcester Machine Shop sold to Heebner & Sons his patent for a horse power governor, which regulated the speed of the power and was a safeguard to man and

horse. Even if the band wheel would break or become loose, the governor prevented any accident that might occur. The firm immediately installed these governors on all horse powers manufactured at the works.

The year 1876 brought the National Centennial Celebration to Philadelphia and the opportunity for Heebner & Sons to display their machines to an international audience. On May 7, the firm shipped to the gigantic centennial hall one of their celebrated Little Giant threshers and cleaners, one- and two-horse level tread powers, their own patent potato planter and other machinery, all handsomely painted and done up in the best of style with first class material. The firm had reserved a space of 300 square feet in the machinery hall. As a result of this celebration, Heebner & Sons' horse power and thresher gained popularity throughout the entire world. The opening day of the centennial was May 10. The locomotive and cars of the North Penn Railroad to Philadelphia, which hauled the Heebner machinery, were handsomely decorated with flags and the conductors appeared in their striking uniforms. Most of the business establishments in Lansdale and along the railroad lines were profusely decorated with the stars and stripes. The American House Hotel in Lansdale in particular, displayed the colors of the union in a very tasteful manner. The most decorated locomotive was undoubtedly the one used on the repairing train in charge of George Taylor. Heebner & Sons were awarded the first prize, The Centennial Medal, for their horse power and thresher over all the entrants from the United States of America. The exposure at this exhibit was a major reason for the later success of Heebner & Sons. They received numerous orders from all corners of the world for their prize horse powers. Many of the orders were placed at the centennial exhibit floor. In 1876 Heebner's produced more horse powers than any other manufacturer in the world. One of the orders taken at the exhibit came from Capetown, South Africa for five of the level tread powers and was to be shipped by sailing vessel from New York. The delivery took a total of three months.

On April 5, 1877, Andrew D. Kriebel sold his farm house and four lots in Lansdale, (numbers 23,24,26, and 27 on the borough plan) to David S. Heebner, Isaac D. Heebner and William D. Heebner, trading under the name of Heebner & Sons, for a total price of \$1,600.00. This farm was known as the "Old Spring Farm" belonging to the Jenkins family. The Heebners purchased it because the property contained a valuable spring known as "The Never Failing Spring" from which they planned to lay lead water pipes, that would connect the farm to the agricultural works by route of Hector

alley. This water supply was pumped to the works on Broad Street and was used to run the firms' steam-powered machinery, since at this time there was no public water in Lansdale. The distance of the water line was about 500 yards from the spring to the works. The Heebners owned this property until July 26, 1917, when they sold the Old Spring Farm to J. Homer Leidy for \$1,700.00. This home is presently owned by the borough of Lansdale and is occupied by the Lansdale Historical Society.

In 1877, Heebner & Son shipped three of their level tread horse powers to Petersburg, Virginia, two to the State of Georgia and ten, in two weeks, to East Tennessee. The total sale of the shipment to Tennessee in this year amounted to \$14,000.00. The firm shipped two carloads of their celebrated horse powers and threshers to Nova Scotia and one carload to Prince Edward Island. The order for Nova Scotia was a shipment of about thirty machines, all of which were made in the month of October, 1877. They also had inquiries from South America, Bulgaria and Turkey. During a portion of this time the firm was obligated to work until midnight in order to meet demands. Their extensive warehouses, which at the beginning of the season were crowded with different kinds of machines were now nearly empty and indicated active work for their employees for the coming winter. They received an order for one of Bickford and Huffman's celebrated drills from Macedon, New York. This drill was adapted for seeding all kinds of cereals, including corns and fertilizers. It was a simple machine in construction, perfect in all its parts. Every Christmas the firm would shut down for about two weeks to overhaul machinery and make repairs; however, in 1877 it had to settle for the week between Christmas and New Year's because of the demand for their machines.

In the spring of 1878, Heebner's purchased a new wagon of excellent style and make, expressly constructed to haul agricultural machinery. The wagon was built by Shaw & Brother of Carversville, Bucks County. The running gear was painted bright yellow, handsomely striped with black, and the body was a light red, elegantly lettered with the firm's name. They also constructed an elaborate sign, about thirty-five feet long to adorn the old foundry building which was recently purchased for special purposes and located opposite the Stony Creek Railroad junction in Lansdale. The firm began to make important improvements on the buildings and enlarged and adapted them to the manufacture of patterns for the various castings used by its foundry.

A trial of horse powers and threshers between Heebner & Sons and the Ellis Manufacturing Company of Pottstown, Pa., was held on

November 21, 1878 at the farm of Aaron M. Black in Christiana, Lancaster County. The result was a complete victory for the Heebner level tread horse power and the Little Giant threshers and cleaners. Black stated that the Heebner machines did the same quality of work in less time and with considerably less labor for the horse. The Ellis thresher was called the Champion and its horse power was known as the Keystone. These two machines were Heebner & Sons strongest local competition at this time. The success of Heebner & Sons was attributed to the merits of their level tread and governors.

The largest shipment of powers, threshers and cleaners from the agricultural works took place in June of 1878. It was consigned to Amhurst, Nova Scotia. The shipment consisted of their patent level tread powers and Little Giant threshers and cleaners. The firm had been filling orders from Nova Scotia and northern Maine, from their agent in that area, Joseph L. True, for about three years. The shipment consisted of ten carloads and was sent over the North Penn Railroad to Willow Street wharf in Philadelphia, then by the schooner "Keystone" with Captain E.E. Wilder, chartered expressly for this order to the port of Sackville, New Brunswick, then on to Amhurst by railroad. The shipment reached its destination in two weeks. Ten flat railroad cars with richly painted machines, moving through Lansdale to a foreign port, was a gratifying sight to the local citizens during this dull period of time. The entire order for Nova Scotia could not be completed in one season and two more carloads were to be shipped as soon as pressing orders from the South were filled. The firm was now shipping a carload per day to various points across the country.

The 1878 reaper and hay rake was fully one third better than the previous year's models and the firm sold over fifty mowers and reapers, about one hundred horse rakes and over one hundred Oliver chilled plows within sixty days.

Another trial of Heebner machinery was held; this time between Hulzshizer & Larzelere of the Doylestown Agricultural Works, Doylestown, Pa. The Heebner machine competing was The Meadowlark mower and reaper combination. The Doylestown firm brought its Wheeler No. 6 combined machine. In a four-acre field of wheat, on the premises of Winfield White near Lansdale, both machines gave excellent performance, but White selected the Meadowlark machine from Heebner & Sons for \$25.00.

In June of 1879, fire destroyed the Heebner foundry on Chestnut Street. The firm, immediately, began erecting a new brick structure to house their foundry. Fires were common at the foundry

and at this time there were no organized fire companies to protect them.

One day in November of the same year, Heebner & Sons received and carefully piled in their yard 60,000 feet of hardwood lumber, and 100,000 feet more was ordered and on its way so as to complete orders received for their machinery. The firm shipped over 200 horse powers and threshers in the first 10 months of 1879. It was one of the largest manufacturers in the country and was working full time on foreign orders. Local demands had been increasing each year. The firm received a beautiful solid silver medal, awarded by the Georgia State Fair in Atlanta, for the best horse power, thresher and cleaner. It also received a diploma for the best fodder cutter in the fair, The Union cutter.

Isaac Vanfossen of Lansdale, threshed a whole stack of oats, containing between 800 and 900 sheaves, with a Heebner thresher and cleaner without stopping. The power used was the firm's two-horse level tread at an elevation of 14 degrees. The whole stack was threshed in 59 minutes, yielding 63 bushels of clean oats. This was hard to beat considering the elevation of the power, the light horses and the time in which the work was done.

The Heebner machines were piling up awards all over the United States, including the first premium bronze medal at the Penn State Fair in Philadelphia in September 1879, the first premium and a silver medal at the Penn State Fair held at Erie in 1878, the Centennial Medal and first premium Bronze in 1876, at the centennial celebration in Philadelphia, four silver medals and first premium at the National threshing trials held at West Chester, Pa. in 1875, silver medal at the Virginia State Fair in 1872, and a host of first premiums and diplomas at county fairs.

On June 1, 1879, the cry of fire, again rang out on the streets of Lansdale and, again, the Heebner foundry was discovered to be on fire. The frame buildings, four in number, burned like tinder and soon were completely swept away, together with most of their contents among which were valuable patterns. Fortunately the patterns used for the castings of their special manufacture were saved and the loss did not interfere with the running of the works.

On the first of January, 1880, Heebner & Sons started to specialize in furnishing steam engines and boilers, pipes, pumps and shafting for creameries. The Harmony Square Creamery was the first installation to be fitted with a twenty-five horsepower engine and boiler. The firm also contracted to install the engine and boiler at the Pottstown Creamery and to furnish the Crawford Creamery at Shannonville, Montgomery County, with a twelve horsepower upright

boiler and an eight-power horizontal engine. This was the twentieth contract received by the firm within one year. It had greatly improved on machinery used for working with the curd in making cheese, which was approved by the best cheese operators from New York.

Lansdale residents witnessed a grand and novel sight on May 27, 1880, when Heebner & Sons planned a spectacular parade for the delivery of their machinery to local farmers. About seventy farmers, who had ordered machines of all kinds were invited to appear at the works on Broad Street, with their wagons and teams of horses to receive their equipment. As early as seven o'clock, the farmers began to arrive at the works and the business of loading the wagons commenced. A full force of mechanics employed in the different shops were detailed to expedite the work. By early noon, some sixty wagons had been loaded and driven in line on Jenkins Avenue, ready to parade the Heebner machinery through the streets of Lansdale. The horses were detached from the wagons and taken to be fed while the sturdy farmers, with little fuss or commotion, were quietly parcelled out at the three different hotels in town, where abundant dinners had been prepared for them, their assistants and friends. By two o'clock, nearly all the teams of horses had been again hooked up to their wagons and their owners had returned to await the crack of the whip to start the parade. The signal for the parade to move was the starting of the train to Philadelphia, consisting of nineteen flat cars filled with Heebner horse powers and threshers, which formed part of the grand delivery of the day. As the train passed out of sight with its handsomely painted freight, the parade of wagons began, headed by the Lansdale Cornet Band. Immediately following the band came their chariot, which contained Mr. J.L. True, a general agent for the firm, members of the Press and several invited guests including Messrs. A.A. Hamilton and L.F. Bourgeault, the general agents of the Champion Mower and Reaper Company of Springfield, Ohio. The line of march was taken from Jenkins Avenue and moved along Broad Street to Main Street, then turned north on Main to Susquehanna Avenue, Mt. Vernon Street and down to Broad Street, where it turned eastward back to the factory at the railroad crossing. There the line of wagons were broken and the farmers with their machines, went home.

Loaded on the wagons in the line of procession were twenty-three Champion Reapers and Mowers, the balance being level tread horse powers, threshers, horse rakes, plows, harrows and numerous other agricultural implements. The nineteen railroad cars of machinery of sixty-four machines referred to above took the following destinations after arriving in Philadelphia: thirty-six went to A.A.

Mitchell, Portland, Maine; two to C.J. Shimp, Daretown, New Jersey; one to H.C. Waln, Trenton, New Jersey; seven to H.M. Neblett, Black's and White's, Virginia; four to Leavitt Bros., Parkersburg, West Virginia; one to J.R. Mercer, Toisnot, North Carolina; one to Oliver Cowan & Company, Shelbyville, Tennessee; two to Calvin Alexander, Quarryville, Pa.; two to George Boileau, Southamptonville, Pa.; one to Alexander Carl, McKees, Pa.; one to Aaron Weidener, Bigler, Pa.; two to Henry Wilson, Holmesburg, Pa., and one to Joseph Stormburg, McKees, Pa. The actual value of the day's delivery and shipments amounted to about \$20,000.00.

Everything was well managed in connection with the affair and except for the extremely warm weather and the clouds of dust raised by so many wagons in line, there was only gratification in a business firm, whose fame in certain lines of manufacture had within a few years become almost worldwide. As well as by the members of the firm, David S. Heebner and his two sons, Isaac and William, the ceremonies were managed by Messrs. J.L. True, Joseph Shephard and V. Wetherill. Wetherill acted as chief marshall and was assisted by Edwin Conard of Norristown, Pa. Among the notable incidents of the occasion was the arrival, at 12:30 p.m. from Doylestown, of the old 104th Regimental Band, better known as the Ringold Band of Emaus, Lehigh County, which was on its return home from the grand reunion of the 104th Reg. Pa., Vol., which had taken place on the previous day at Doylestown. The members of the old band became the lions of this event in Lansdale. Immediately on their arrival, they were drawn up in front of the Junction House Hotel, where they performed one of their choice pieces. Then invited to dinner, they were prevailed upon to join the parade.

Another incident, or rather accident, occurred to one of the farmers in line of the parade. Just as the line was dismissing, his team shied and turned suddenly to one side; a linch pin broke and the wheel came off the hub, but the delay or damage was speedily repaired at the shops of the firm. The grand finale to the ceremonies was an entertainment given by the firm in the large lawn attached to the residence of Isaac D. Heebner, at the corner of Main and Broad Streets. All employees and their families and a large number of Lansdale citizens took part in the entertainment and the Lansdale Band furnished music. Among the visitors attracted by the occasion were gentlemen from Bucks, Chester, Northampton and other counties and several from New Jersey. Representatives of the *Lansdale Reporter*, the *Norristown Daily Herald*, the *Bucks County Intelligencer*, the *Doylestown Democrat*, and the *Schwenksville Item* were on hand. Parades and bands were extremely popular in communities at this time. They were the



The Heebner Employees in Parade Uniforms

entertainment of the times which helped unite the residents in community spirit.

The *Philadelphia Press* commented on the Heebner agricultural works and its machinery displayed at the Pennsylvania State Fair on September 30, 1880. It wrote that America leads the world in manufacturing agricultural implements.

Prominent among implement makers in the States stands Heebner & Sons of Lansdale. They have obtained an extraordinary attestation of merit in the shape of a medal and diploma for one machine, their famous level tread horse power. The principle point, and a highly important one, is the platform on which the horse walks. It is constructed on a common sense plan and keeps the feet of the animal in a perfectly natural position, which enables him to do almost double the work of any other apparatus. The speed regulator is a most ingenious device and will regulate the running even though the band should break or fly off. The Little Giant Thresher and Cleaner, made by Heebners, has attained a wonderful popularity and with its latest additions and improvements is about as near perfection as human ingenuity can bring it. The most valuable improvement is the self-adjusting regulator, which gives to the fan in the cleaner a uniform supply of wind without regard to speed. Heebner & Sons have sold all the machines they had on exhibition and their books are literally over-run with foreign and domestic orders. It must be admitted that their Little Giant thresher and cleaner and the level tread horse power are of more than ordinary merit when orders are being filled from far off Africa, Panama, New South Wales and numerous points in the British Dominions. The materials employed are of the best and are subject to a severe test before being used, and not a machine is permitted to go outside of the factory that is not perfect. At present the firm employs forty to fifty men and turns out seven two-horse powers and seven Little Giant threshers per week, besides the other work on special order. Twenty six of their mechanics are men of families, which together with the single men employed, add to the population of the borough of Lansdale, upwards of 130 souls, requiring an aggregate expenditure for the pure necessities of life, of not less than \$15,000.00 per annum, in which the Lansdale businessman naturally become large shareholders.

The same year Heebner & Sons received from New York, a mammoth turning lathe, which weighed three and one half tons and cost the firm \$1500.00. They also started to produce a cutoff saw, thirty inches in diameter, to be used with one of their level tread horse powers. Their first order for these saws was shipped to Cornwall, Conn. They sold a level tread power to William L. Underwood, Proprietor of the *Enquirer and Reporter* (a newspaper published in Ohio) to run his printing press.

In the month of December alone, in 1880, Heebner & Sons

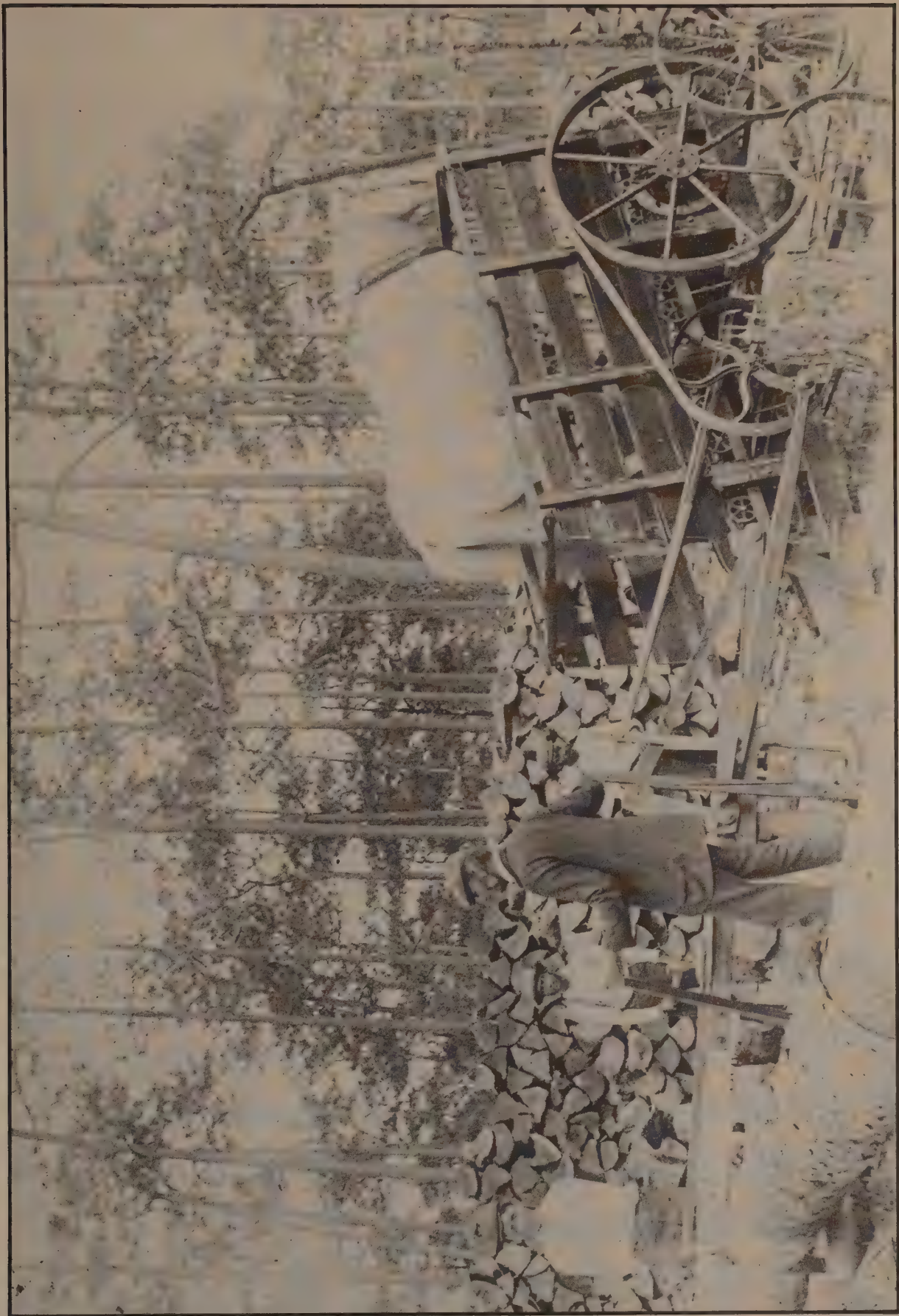
shipped fifty-two machines, including level tread horse powers, Little Giant threshers and Union feed cutters. They fitted up five creameries with engines and boilers within the same month. The firm also received seventy tons of pig iron to be used in the foundry.

On March 24, 1881, Heebner & Son purchased a building lot on Fourth Street from S. K. Anders of Worcester Township. William D. Heebner and J. Howard Fisher exchanged properties in Lansdale and both moved into their new homes immediately, William moving to the corner of Broad and Jenkins Avenue, across from the works. William D. Heebner, after the purchase of his new home, decided to build new stables and a warehouse for the firm on Jenkins Avenue between their foundry and machine shop, directly behind his new home.

The firm furnished two of its level treads to an Ohio party, who intended to use them to run a flatboat on the Ohio River. What might these powers be used for next? Heebner's contracted to furnish the Gwynedd Steam Mill with a forty horsepower boiler and repaired the engine at the mill to put it in running order. The firm furnished a boiler and engine with all machinery necessary to put it in running order at the Forrest Grove Creamery in Bucks County. It was seldom that one firm received the contract to do the entire job and furnish everything. Other orders followed from creameries in Plymouth, Harleysville, Willowdale, Center Square in Montgomery County, Rush Valley and Joseph Atkinson in Bucks County, and the Monocaŷy, Seargentville, Princeton and Hartford creameries, all in New Jersey. Seven of the creameries used the Benner Vats, sold by A. S. Benner of Perkasię, Pa. The Atkinson and Plymouth Creameries received a thirty horsepower engine and two forty horsepower boilers. The firm furnished the engine and boiler for the Hat Factory at Rahns Station, together with all machinery necessary to set the works in motion.

Another unusual order was received from Omaha, Na., for two level tread horse powers which were to be used to propel a ferry boat. The firm erected a telephone between their machinery shop on Broad Street and the Iron and Brass Foundry on Chestnut Street. The wire for this telephone was fastened to the telegraph poles already in use by the works.

The Heebners added to their line of implements one of the Kemp's patent manure spreaders, manufactured in Syracuse, New York. It was a simple machine cart holding about thirty bushels, with broad tires and a short tongue or reach which would connect with the forward wheels of any farm wagon at the King bolt. It had a movable bottom, similar to the travelling bed of the horse power, which by



William D. Heebner Operating Horse Power and Saw

means of suitable machinery when in gear, moved slowly between the sides of the body, carrying the load to the rear where it met a swiftly revolving cylinder provided with teeth, which extended across the width of the cart. This cylinder picked the material to pieces and scattered it in fine particles as the team moved along. It spread all manures from the coarsest to the finest—also “lime, ashes, marl, muck, cotton seed and other fertilizers, wet or dry, in such quantities per acre as may be desired, and in one tenth the time required by hand.” Yet another chief merit lay in the quality of work, the manure being so thoroughly pulverized and equally distributed that twenty-five to forty per cent more benefit was realized from the same amount than when pitched out in the ordinary lumpy way. Joseph S. Kemp was the inventor. He worked for years before he perfected it; the price of the machine was \$110.00.

In August of 1881, Heebner & Sons began to erect a large new brick stable and warehouse on its lot between the foundry and the machine shop. The ground floor was used for stabling horses used by the firm and the second floor was a wareroom for machinery.

The firm announced the completion of its own reaper and binder in the same year. It was a simple device, weighing less than one hundred pounds. The simple Knot Tier weighed but a few pounds. This binder seemed destined to become very popular; however, like any new invention, it had to be first tried at work in the fields.

Heebner & Sons were turning out two threshing machines a day and had received the first premium Bronze Medal at the State Fair in Pittsburgh in 1881. This was the fourth successive Bronze Medal awarded to the firm by the State Fair. There were dozens of machines with different patterns represented at these fairs, but the judges stated that Heebner & Sons had had the best machines of the entire competition “for the last four years.” The firm also exhibited at the Atlanta Cotton Fair in Atlanta, Georgia in 1881. At this fair, outside the giant machinery hall, a prominent exhibit of Heebner & Sons’ famous level tread horse powers and Little Giant threshers were assembled. This attracted much attention and excited a great deal of curiosity from some of the southern “crackers” who had never before seen such machines. The southern farmers called these machines “.Yankee tricks”.

On August 22, 1881, the entire agricultural works closed down their shops for the funeral of Emma “Lizzie” Frantz, the wife of William D. Heebner, partner in the firm. They had been married for nine years.

In October, Heebner & Sons was granted permission to lay

water pipe from its spring on the old Jenkins farm to its foundry on Chestnut Street. Also it installed a crane in the foundry which was capable of lifting three tons. A patent improved cupola, capable of melting two tons per hour, enabled them to manufacture a better quality of iron. A punching press and shear, which stood in the iron working room of the main building, was newly manufactured and designed wholly by Heebner & Sons and did excellent service. It was confidentially asserted that this machine did the work of eight or ten men drilling holes in iron, or where a man could drill one hundred holes in one hour by the old method, eight hundred could be drilled in the same length of time by machine. It was operated by one man.

By 1881, the Heebner sales line of machines had grown to include feed cutters, drag and circular saws, corn shellers, farm grist mills, mowers and reapers, binders, hay rakes, lawn mowers, plows, cultivators, harrows and porcelain lined pumps with rubber buckets which were the only ones of their kind on the market. They did repairing and jobbing; iron and brass castings and steam engines and boilers for creameries were fitted during a period of eighteen months. In the same year, Heebner & Sons turned out 310 horse powers and threshers. Two thirds of these were two-horse power machines. They also manufactured 398 governors, 100 union feed cutters, 50 corn shellers, 15 drag circular saws, 50 wagons to mount threshers, 75 horse power hoist jacks and a number of other machines such as field rollers. They fitted 22 creameries with engines and boilers, and 8 mills and factories. At the foundry 196 tons of cast iron and brass castings were made. It was no wonder why the firm was thinking of building a larger factory to meet its demands.

Heebner & Sons purchased an orange grove of five acres in Florida with a tract of valuable timber land on the St. John's River in February of 1882. The grove was located 170 miles south of Jacksonville near Orange City. The entire tract of land was covered with a heavy growth of yellow pine which Philadelphia Merchants said was the best quality of yellow pine anywhere in this country. J.I. True, general agent for the firm, purchased twenty acres of land on a beautiful lake at Orange City, and one fourth interest in another fifty-four acres containing a fine Orange Grove.

A trial of horse powers and threshers was held at the Ambler Park Fair in Ambler, Pa. The machines entered for trial were the Heebner one horse power with level tread and speed regulator and the Little Giant thresher and cleaner against the Buckwalter Champion one horse power, manufactured by Ruth & Bros. of Lansdale Pa., and the Roberts thresher and cleaner, manufactured by M.O. Roberts of Worcester, Pa., entered by Ruth & Bros. Both powers were elevated

to the same height, the same horse was used by both parties. Forty sheaves of wheat were allotted to each party to thresh. Ruth & Bros. were eleven minutes and fifty-four seconds threshing their allotted quantities and Heebner & Sons were seven minutes and forty-seven seconds threshing the same quantity. The Ruth power walked the horse faster and worked him harder than the Heebner power. The Roberts thresher and cleaner wasted considerable grain over the end of the shaker (blown over the fan) and did not do as good work as the Heebner Little Giant. The Committee awarded Heebner & Sons the first premium.

Forced Expansion: The Impact of Growing Sales

In 1882, Heebner & Sons decided to do broad advertising in Montgomery and adjoining counties. For several years the firm was a heavy user of printer's ink, and now the fruits of the money expended were manifest in that it became necessary every now and then to put on an additional force of men to perform the work. It was a well known fact that these works were the largest concern of the kind in eastern Pennsylvania. Besides having the run of the home trade by heavy odds against any other factory in the surrounding counties, the foreign business had grown to immense proportions. The Maine-New England Branch, managed by J.L.True, had spoken for itself; the Little Giant thresher and cleaner and the level tread horse power had become quite common in Maine.

The bookkeeping of the company, which is an important branch in so large a business, was done by the efficient hand of Joseph Moyer, who had a thorough business college education. A number of local agents were in the employ of the firm and all reported favorably for an excellent home trade.

Advertising with a stock of goods to back it up and advertising without much of anything to show for it are two very different things. It can safely be said that what Heebner & Sons advertised could be substantiated in every particular. Heebners' extensive advertising, which claimed the firm's domination of the local trade, caused other firms in the area to challenge their claim. One of these, Ruth & Bros. of Lansdale, challenged Heebner & Sons to show written proof of their claim. Ruth & Bros. denied in print that Heebner's controlled the local trade and stated that it sold more machinery to local farmers in Montgomery County. Heebner & Sons responded to Ruth & Bros. by asking them to meet at the office of the *North Wales Record* with a sworn statement to substantiate their claims. Heebner & Sons sent

their bookkeeper to the newspaper office on April 5, 1882, with facts in hand, but Ruth & Bros., failed to appear. The documents presented to the newspaper stated that Heebner & Sons sold fifty per cent more machinery than the entire business done by all their local competitors in 1882.

Ruth & Bros., started manufacturing agricultural implements in Lansdale in June, 1878; the firm was located at the corner of Courtland and Susquehanna Avenue, next to Freeds Hotel. It sold the same kind of machinery as Heebner & Sons and also manufactured a few items. Among the items sold were Eureka mowers (\$50.00 to \$75.00 each), Meadow Lark mowers, Gregg reapers and Osbourne binders (\$95.00 to \$120.00 each), Comly, Star, and Victor dump rakes, Superior grain drills, South Bend chilled plows, Syracuse plows, Wiard plows, Oliver plows and Spring tooth harrows. In 1881, in eight months time, Ruth & Bros. sold 80 horse powers and had 50 more on order. They sold 126 mowers and reapers in one month, and 158 Osbourne mowers and reapers and 100 patent Superior grain drills in one year. In 1882, Ruth & Bros. received first premium at the Lehigh County Agricultural Institute and two diplomas at the Montgomery County Fair held in Ambler. The firm was started by the father, John Ruth, and his sons, Henry and Abraham Ruth. They established a branch office in Telford, Pa., operated by George W. Keeler, who also sold Domestic sewing machines and parts. In 1883, Ruth & Bros., changed their name to A.D. Ruth, when Abraham D. Ruth bought out his father and brother. He employed fourteen men in the fifth year of business. However, the firm of A.D. Ruth closed its doors in 1884 and all its assets were sold at public auction. In April of 1882, the Norristown newspaper reported that Heebner & Sons was negotiating for the purchase of the Norristown Agricultural Works and that the North Penn railroad company was interested in the purchase of the Heebner property in Lansdale. At this time there was a possibility of Heebner's moving their works. The firm had to expand its operation to make room for the manufacture of its grain binder, which was now ready to be sold. The firm expected this little machine to be a large success and estimated that it would require a much larger work force to manufacture it. The Norristown works could be purchased cheaply and the Norristown businessmen would certainly welcome the Heebners to their borough. Heebner & Sons seriously contemplated the move, but decided instead to increase the size of their plant in Lansdale. Can you imagine what would have happened to the borough of Lansdale if the firm had decided to buy the Norristown works?

In May, 1882, the Heebner's found it necessary to obtain larger

quantities of water to run their works. They proceeded to call a number of persons in Lansdale who would be in favor of forming a company to supply the borough with water, and held a meeting at Freeds Hall to organize committees to investigate this matter. Present at this meeting were David S. Heebner, Isaac D. Heebner, William D. Heebner, John C. Boorse, Wm. Richardson, A.C. Godshall, Andrew Kriebel, John C. Godshall, J.S. Geller and .A.J. Freed. They voted to organize a stock company to erect a waterworks and appointed David S. Heebner, J.C. Godshall and J.S. Geller to find a location and a price for ground. Isaac D. Heebner was to investigate the methods of supply and cost. By June, the group elected officers and directors and appropriated funds. William D. Heebner was elected President of the new water company, an office he held until 1930.

Heebner's added to their works a new punching machine, which was intended to punch the separator bottoms, the only machine of its kind in the United States. It was the invention of Nathaniel Metz and William D. Heebner. It would punch a whole sheet of the iron in six minutes. Under the old system, it took one man two hours to do the work imperfectly—a task now done in six minutes. Every appliance for quick and perfect work was now being introduced, and the firm planned to build more machines.

True, the general agent from Maine wrote to the firm and announced the sale of seventy machines if he could get them. The works were being taxed to the utmost to fill orders and the men were working until ten at night. In September, 1882, they were at work on the third hundred machines needed and about fifteen machines were turned out each week. As a result in August of 1882, Heebner's decided to expand their works and opened negotiations to furnish an engine and a boiler for their proposed new building. When the building was completed, the firm employed no less than 100 men and was capable of turning out 500 machines a year. The works had been running to their utmost capacity to keep up with orders and were finding it difficult to manufacture machines fast enough for the trade.

By October, the foundations were being dug and 200,000 bricks were ordered and delivered from two brick yards, one in Norristown and the other in Kulpsville. The work was pushed along as rapidly as possible. Charles Bender was awarded the contract for the carpentry work and John Zearfoss for the brickwork. The stone masons laid the foundations and the bricklayers followed to complete the walls to the third floor. At this time True, an agent for Heebner & Sons in Maine, had to refuse an order for forty machines because the

firm could not produce until the new building was completed. Several trees that stood for many years in front of the old machine shop had to be cut down to make room for the new addition. A sixty-foot-high smoke stack was erected and all new curbs and brick pavements were installed on Broad Street. The brick work was completed by the end of November and the carpenters and slaters were then busy installing the roof. The builders had been favored with perfect weather. The workmen in the iron and wood-working departments did not stop for a single hour because of the construction. To erect the entire new works around and over the old walls, without the employees dropping their tools or even being disturbed to any degree was an accomplishment.

During the winter months David Heebner, senior member of the firm, constructed a large clock to be placed in the tower of the building. When the works was completed it consisted of a three story building, fronting 156 feet on Broad Street with two large wings at the back (one wing measured 100 feet and the other 82 feet). The building in which the business had been conducted for the first ten years was built of frame, but now the owners decided to replace it with brick. In the center of the building was a seventy foot tower in which was placed a bell and clock.

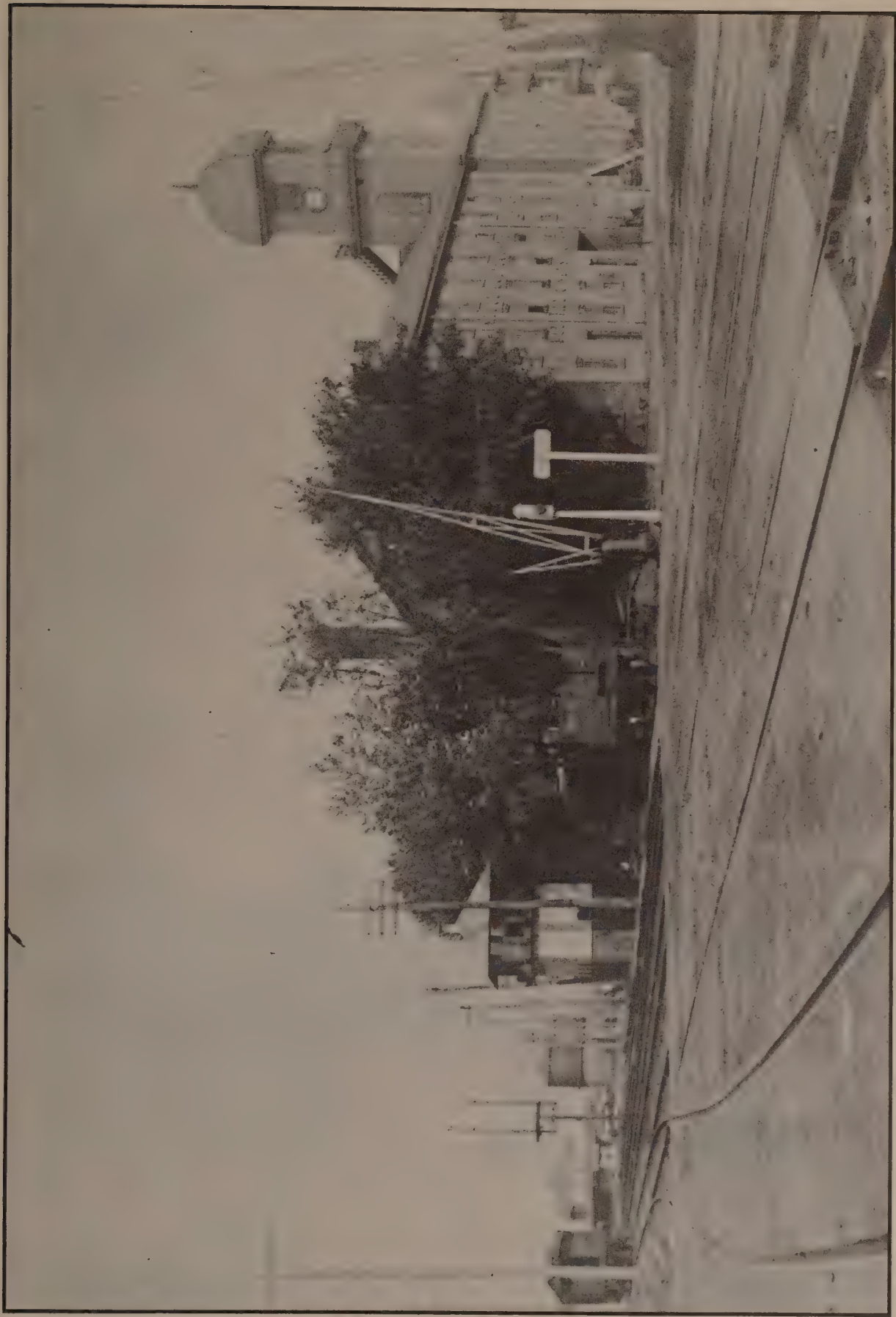
On the ground floor, which was made of brick and cemented with a view to preventing fire was a wareroom, office, machine shop for the ironwork, blacksmith shop and engine room. The engine room contained one of Bate's forty horsepower boilers, walled in, which made steam for a twenty-five horsepower Bigelow engine. The machine shop was supplied with machines for ironwork, since the firm made all the castings and iron parts themselves. The raw material was brought to the doors of Heebner's on railroad tracks from all parts of the country. In the ironworking department, as well as in very other department for that matter, the best machinery for facilitating business was used. Several of these machines were designed and constructed within the Heebner works and were considered to be as good as any in the market. Everything that accomplished the most in the least time and the best manner was adopted so that it was scarcely possible for any other factory of the same kind to dispatch business with such rapidity.

On the second floor was the finishing and paint department. This was a hive of industry. Several machines were under construction at the same time. When they received the last stroke of the paint brush they were lowered on an elevator to the ground floor, where they were loaded on cars and shipped to all parts of the world.

The third floor was used for a storeroom where the finished



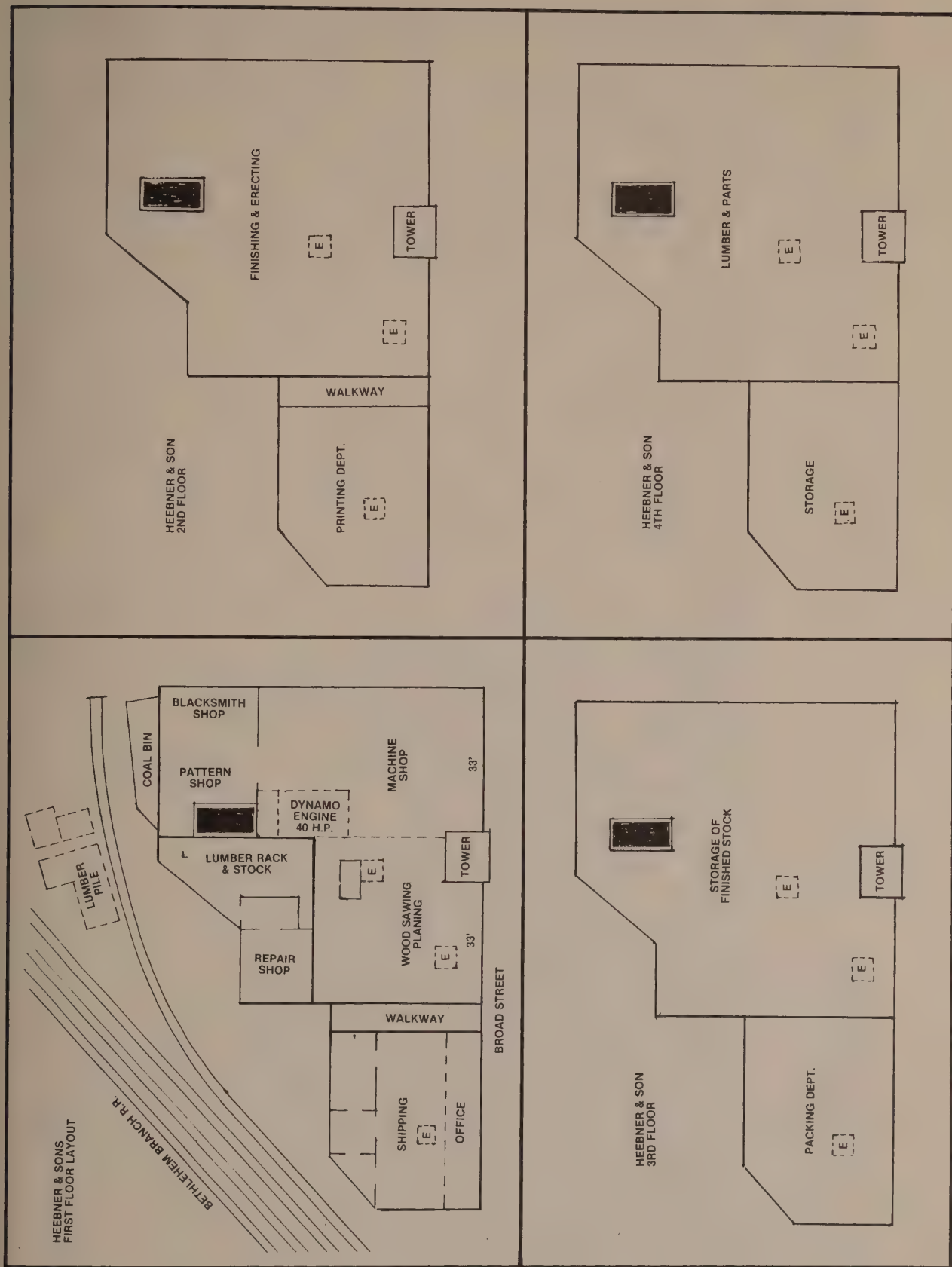
Heebner and Sons, 1882



Heebner Plant from North Penn Railroad



Heebner and Sons, 1882 from Main Street, Lansdale



Heebner and Sons Plant Layout, 4 Floors



The Heebners' Work Force (David S. Heebner in Front)

machines were stored. The great demand for the machines prevented that room from receiving much of a supply. This floor was also used for seasoning wood. A large crane that lifted three tons was placed in the rear of the works and used for loading machines and heavy goods for shipping. In 1882 over 300 threshing machines and horse powers were shipped by rail from their new facility.

In addition to Heebner's machine shop on Broad Street, the firm owned an iron and brass foundry a short distance away on Chestnut Street, a separate building for the storage of patterns and another building for the reception of farm implements on Jenkins Avenue. In the summer season this building was packed to the roof with all kinds of implements used by farmers, but by fall, they disappeared, scattered over the country for miles around.

To celebrate the opening of the new building Heebner's printed the most beautiful lithograph ever seen in Lansdale. It had an outdoor scene and a view of the interior of a barn. In the harvest field stood the level tread horse power and the Little Giant thresher and cleaner, hard at work threshing the golden grain. On all sides was magnificent scenery. Another part of the picture showed the same work going on inside the barn. A large number of these lithographs were ordered to be distributed by Heebners' agents. The firm also published a catalogue showing a complete line of their machines.

Why had the business of Heebner & Sons grown so large? In the first place, it had excellent machines which recommended themselves to buyers who desired value for their money. In the second place, the firm made large investments in advertising. The sons in particular, kept on investing in this way and reaped the benefit. The Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 drew the attention of the world to their machines. In competition with many other machines, the Heebner's were awarded medals as a token of the great superiority of their machines over all others.

Along with the new building, a new policy was adopted in their payroll procedures. The workers would be paid by the month instead of weekly; for a single month, Heebner's payroll for eighty men amounted to \$3,412.78.

By August of 1883, Heebner's was turning out from fifty to sixty machines a month and the demand for their machinery increased. Nearly all the railroad lines were loaded with machines going in the direction of the four points of the compass.

By November, the Lansdale Water Works was in full operation and installed the first fire plug in front of the new Heebner plant. The force of the main was sufficient to throw water sixty to seventy feet high, using a two-and-a-half inch hose with a three-quarter inch

nozzle. William D. Heebner, junior member of the firm, was responsible for organizing the water works and served as its president from 1882 to 1930.

In November, 1883, the bell which was to sound the time of day in the new tower had been cast and was ready to be placed in position. David S. Heebner made his plans to mount the dial plates for his clock. He was seventy-three when he constructed the big clock, which had four faces. When the builder died, the clock struck eleven times, as the Hearse carrying the body to its last resting place passed the tower.

The clock started running on January 1, 1884. The dimensions of the clock frame were three feet, one inch high and twenty-one inches wide. The main driving wheels, two in number, were seventeen inches in diameter and the barrels eight inches, having a face of one and one half inches, with a pitch of five or six. The rest of the wheels in the clock were from six to ten inches in diameter. They were all made of brass, with the exception of the driving wheels. The weight of the castings, in the rough, that were used in the construction of the clock was 311 pounds, and 125 pounds of brass was used. All the iron and brass was cast by Heebner & Sons. Two weights were required to run the clock, each one weighing 520 pounds. The dials were thirty-three inches in diameter and were four in number. There were eight wheels inside the clock and from the clock to the dials there were twenty-six, not counting the pinions. It took Heebner eighty-seven days to construct the clock. This is very good time considering the amount of work there was to be done and the age of the maker. Oswin Krauss, a master pattern maker at Heebner & Sons, assisted David Heebner in manufacturing all the necessary patterns, drafts, etc. and he was also in charge of keeping the old clock at exactly the correct hour of the day at all times until he was too old to perform the difficult task.

In 1926, the clock inspired Rev. L.S. Hoffman, pastor of the Lansdale Schwenkfelder Church to write an interesting poem. Rev. Hoffman called Mr. David Heebner the "Founder of our village dear" as he was the borough of Lansdale's first Burgess. His poem follows:

The Village Clock

by L. S. Hoffman

The founder of our village dear,
 who set this town aglow;
conceived the sights and beauties here,
 some fifty years ago.
Right near the corner of the street,
 where trains and teams passed by;
He built his shop, equipped, complete,
 to serve men's longing cry.
Upon the top he built a tow'r
 and in his cunning way;
within this little breezy bow'r,
 he carved time's certain sway.
No gilded shiftless weather cock,
 to spin in airy fray;
but a commanding village clock,
 to tell the time of day.
Before the early roosters crow
 to greet the coming day;
before the Fact'ry whistles blow,
 so shrill and far away;
the clock kept striking clear and low,
 and gave a fair alarm;
when mothers served by candle glow,
 the breakfast good and warm.
The men went forth to work at dawn,
 and toiled 'til late at night;
they gave through talent, skill and brawn,
 true workmanship and right.
They loved to do the hard tasks too,
 and wrought with all their might;
for when the day, or task was through,
 success was their delight.
The children hurried off to school,
 to learn their lessons well;
how well they fared through lore and rule,
 their traits of life must tell.
they wondered why the clock moved slow,
 when tasks were hard each day;

and why it always hurried so,
while they enjoyed their play.
The trav'lers who were little late,
would watch the clock aright;
and then bewildered blamed their fate
as trains passed out of sight.
So wayward men oft trail behind,
and long for luck instead;
while lucky ones we often find,
through pluck forge right ahead.
The farmers in the open field,
and workmen in the shop;
would never more their sickles wield,
when warned by time to stop.
The seventh day was set apart
to worship God above;
and each one tried to do his part,
through fellowship and love.
The sick folks lay awake at night,
in misery and pain;
they braved the weary hours of plight,
and prayed for health again;
although some thank their lucky stars,
while other hearts still yearn,
because friends passed beyond the bars,
from where there's no return.
At last the founder fell asleep;
although his clock moved on,
his noble deeds but souls can reap;
the dross and wealth are gone.
The fun'ral passed the village clock,
it tolled faintly elev'n,
the body turns to dust and rock,
the soul soars fourth to heav'n.
So shops and clocks may come and go;
while men serve in their turn;
and since we're here to reap and sow,
these lessons we should learn.
Pure virtue leads us to the top,
and love outweighs the sun;
While mortal feats like clocks, must stop
though souls live on and on.

A large bell in the tower was cast in North Wales, Pa. in 1883 by Thomas Durrin. Mr. Durrin's foundry was located on the south-east corner of Third Street and the railroad, adjoining a section of A.K. Shearer's lumber yard. The bell sounded every hour of the day and, there being four dials, the time of day could be seen from the four corners of the town.



*Thomas Durrin Cast
Bell from Heebner
Tower, 1883*

During 1883, Heebner & Sons sold 400 horse powers, 415 threshers and cleaners, 250 fodder cutters and 60 wood saws, besides doing an immense amount of repairing. The firm had orders for 15 horse powers and threshers to be shipped to Texas and a large order from Kentucky, Alabama, New Brunswick, Mexico and Bulgaria. On December 13, 1883, William D. Heebner, Junior member of the firm was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie Shearer of Lansdale.



*Elizabeth Shearer
(Wife of William D.
Heebner)*

Exhibiting with other Firms

Heebner & Sons, in connection with the West Point Engine & Machine Company located in West Point, Pa., was exhibiting at the State Fair in Philadelphia in the fall of 1884. This was the first time this engine company exhibited jointly with Heebner & Sons. The West Point Engine & Machine Company made a pony engine which spectators called "A Daisy." The engine company was organized in January of 1880 and the members of the board of directors were Joseph Anders, Jr., Isaac R. Cassel, John S. Heebner, Frederick Light Sr., Aaron Kriebel, William L. Heebner and Charles Kriebel. H.W. Kriebel was the general agent for the company which produced reversible stationery, and launch engines, in addition to a portable engine. The name of the engine was "The Kriebel Vibrating Valve Steam Engine," invented by H.W. Kriebel. The firm was awarded the first premium at the North Carolina State Fair held at Raleigh in October of 1882. The company reorganized in 1888 under the name of The West Point Manufacturing Company and began the business of making boilers and engines for steam hot water heating systems.

William D. Heebner, Junior member of the firm was elected as a representative to the Pennsylvania State Legislature in Harrisburg in the election of 1884 and in January, of the following year, he resigned his position as Burgess of Lansdale.

In April of 1885, Heebner's started to carry a stock of farm wagons, express wagons, buggies and carriages. The brand of farm wagon was "The Auburn" wagon. The firm also received an order from the United States government for twenty of their level tread horse powers and twenty-four inch circular sawing machines.

In October, Heebner & Sons carried away two first premiums at county fairs; this time from the Central New York Fair and the Lackawanna County Fair in Pennsylvania. The firm also received three gold medals for its horse power threshing machine and wood sawing machine at the New Orleans Exposition. It exhibited at the Grangers' picnic in Williams Grove, Pa. and placed about \$100,000.00 worth of machinery on the grounds. Ten thousand people attended this fair. Robert Shepherd and Samuel Anders, general agents for the firm, were in charge of Heebners' interest at the fair.

At this time Josiah D. Heebner, of the Worcester Heebner Machine Shop, perfected a low down grain binder which he had been working on for several years. The new machine operated very well and demonstrated its capacity to cut, collect and deliver the sheaf promptly behind the binder. Its trial operation was so successful that

work on the patterns was commenced at once and by the spring, the machine was marketed by Heebner & Sons. In this new machine, Heebner's had endeavored to surmount all obstacles which so many large manufacturers in the west had to contend with, and succeeded. The Heebners viewed this machine as the foundation of another great enterprise for the borough of Lansdale and the Heebner works.

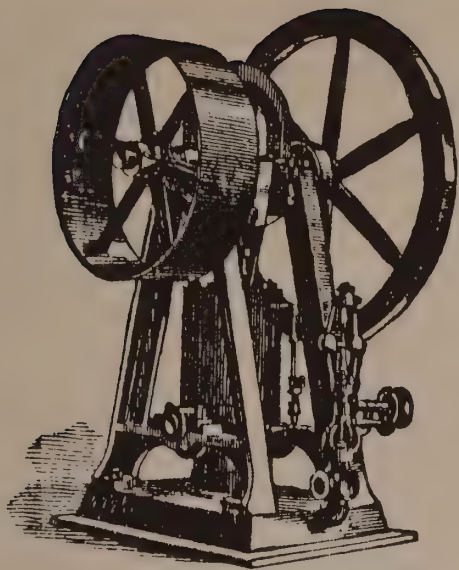
The Heebners received an order for their machines from New Mexico, but the order had to be cancelled when the parties purchasing the machinery were murdered by Indians.

In 1886, Heebner's received an order for \$10,000.00 worth of level tread horse powers and threshers from Texas. They also filled over \$3,000.00 worth to be shipped to California. During the year of 1885, the firm used, in the construction of its machines, 207 tons of castings and over 20,000 feet of lumber.

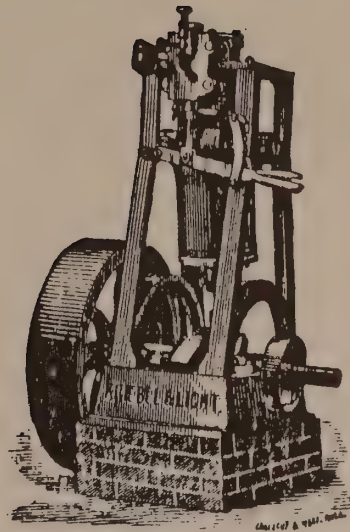
Heebner & Sons added another new machine, known as the band saw to their already complete stock of machinery. It did the work better and faster than any other appliance used by the firm. Jordan Cooper, one of the efficient machinists employed by Heebners, had received a patent for a "strap clamping and stretching device." Cooper's patent certificate would last for seventeen years, meaning that he was the sole owner of the patent during that time. The Heebners also applied for a patent on a valuable improvement on their threshing machine. In a trial run with long damp rye they did the work better in four minutes than they did earlier in eight.

At this time also a telephone line of the Shaver patent was installed between the machine shop and the foundry. The earlier line failed to work successfully but this line did render the desired service.

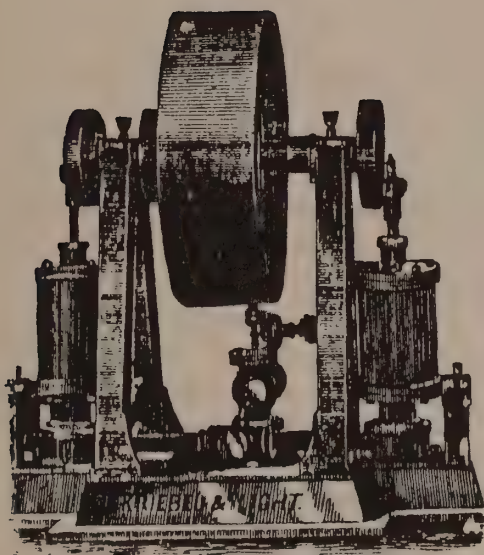
A lawn sweeper was the latest invention that came out of the shops of Heebner & Sons. It was very simple in construction and as it moved back and forth over the lawn, and it picked up and deposited, in a large sack provided for that purpose, all the loose particles that might be scattered about. The sweeper was similar to a lawn mower, but on a larger scale. A number of patents had been granted and several more were pending for Heebners' new improved reaper and binder which when perfected was one of the great devices found on the farm. Six years of constant labor by Josiah D. Heebner had been spent on this machine and a number of new and useful ideas were added. The cutting apparatus was the same as other reapers, but the main features were combined in the "low down" binding appliance, which the Heebners brought to a wonderful state of perfection.



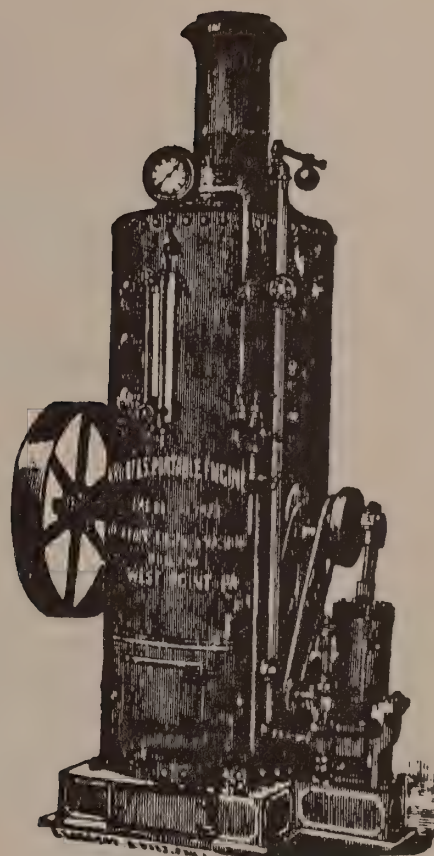
The Kriebel Stationary Engine



The Kriebel Launch Engine



The Kriebel Twin Engine



The Kriebel Portable Engine

Construction of the Tremont House

On February 17, 1887, Isaac D. Heebner, partner in the firm, who lived at the corner of Main and Broad Streets since 1868, decided to build a new "Mansion" between his present home on the corner and the railroad tracks, fronting along Main Street. He sold his small farm house to William Richardson, a local builder who tore it down for salvage; Isaac, however, still owned the ground to the corner. Isaac built a magnificent house of stone which attracted attention by scores who came especially to see it. The building was conceived by the architect, M.B. Bean, and William E. Richardson contracted for the carpentry work, Abram Moyer for the painting, and Jenkins & Company for plumbing. The mansion was completed May 3, 1888. With the removal of his old house on the corner, his spacious lot looked like an orchard. Isaac lived here only a short time and in December of 1892 he sold his home to A. G. Freed who was previously the proprietor of the Hotel Norwood in Lansdale. Mr. Freed's intentions were to turn the property into a hotel. He paid Mr. Heebner \$16,000.00 for the home and immediately added an addition, which was as large as the original home. The addition was also designed by Bean and was made of stone to match the existing building. The addition was completed in December of 1893 and the new building was called "The Tremont House." The reason Heebner sold his home is still a mystery. It must have been quite a surprise to his father and brother, as well as the residents of Lansdale, since the agricultural works was located just behind this property and Heebner & Sons would no longer own the entire triangle of Broad Street, Main Street, and the railroad tracks. This would prevent the firm from any future expansion in that direction.

Under the Direction of William D. Heebner

On October 6, 1887, notice was given that the partnership that existed between David S. Heebner, Isaac D. Heebner and William D. Heebner, under the name of Heebner & Sons, was dissolved by mutual consent and agreement. All debts owing to the firm were to be paid to William D. Heebner, who was to carry on, alone at the old stand. Having purchased the rights, title and interest of the firm, William stated that he would retain the old firm name of Heebner & Sons. The father, David S. Heebner, a man advanced in life and whose years had been full of the hardest labor, was permitted to pass his remaining days at ease in retirement. Isaac D. Heebner, whose health was somewhat impaired by years of labor and business respon-



William D. Heebner, 1887



*The Tremont House,
Home of Isaac D.
Heebner, Lansdale*

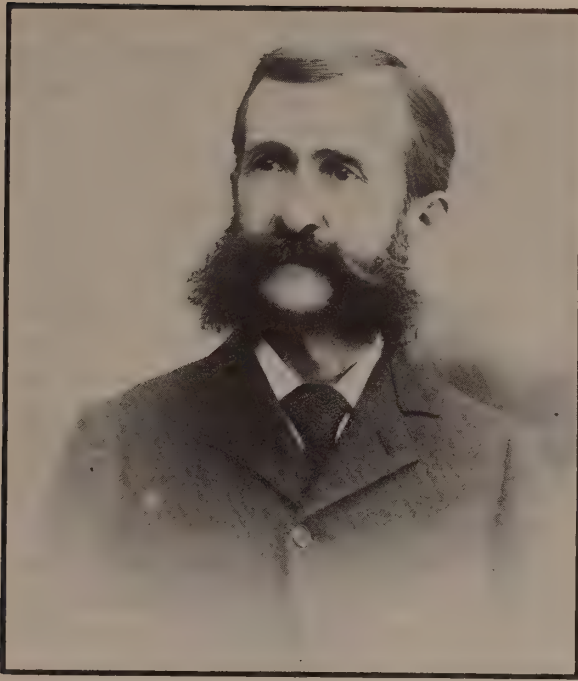
sibilities endeavored in the future to regain his health. He did, however, remain with his younger brother until the books were straightened out and William got the reigns of all departments well in hand. William D. Heebner, in full vigor of manhood, with his years of experience with the firm, (in the years just prior to the sale he had been the representative business man of the firm) assumed control of the firm for which he was so well fitted. The condition of the firm at this time was excellent and business was as brisk as could be desired. David and Isaac thanked their friends and the public in general for their liberal patronage in the past and recommended that they continue dealing at the old reliable stand of Heebner & Sons. Isaac remained at his position of president of the Lansdale School Board, which he served for many years.

William D. Heebner had much broader interests than the firm alone, however. He received considerable credit in regard to the interest he manifested in the introduction and passage of the "Valley Forge Appropriation Bill" and on June 1, 1887, he was specially invited to Valley Forge, Pa. as the guest of honor. This bill provided \$5,000.00 to Valley Forge Park, which enabled it to survive as a memorial park and was successfully passed under Mr. Heebner's direction during his first term as a Montgomery County Representative to the State Legislature.

William D. Heebner was one of the few Lansdale gentlemen who received an invitation to the reception for President Cleveland in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Mr. Heebner and his wife, Mr. H.M. Woodmansee and Nellie Coffman composed the party who paid their respects to President and Mrs. Cleveland in September, 1887.

In April of 1887, Nathaniel Metz, foreman in the agricultural works, perfected a new and improved steam heating system apparatus, which he put into service at his residence on Main Street in Lansdale. By August, Heebner & Sons took advantage of Metz's work and immediately entered into the manufacturing of steam heating equipment adapted for homes, schoolhouses and factories. The apparatus was durable, simple in construction and economical in fuel.

Nathaniel Metz started to work for Heebner & Sons in 1877, moving from his home in Worcester Township to Lansdale, to take charge of the Heebner works. He was a very important man in the history of the firm. He invented many of the items manufactured by the firm. He developed an instrument for removing tape worms from chickens' throats in 1887, the shredding attachments for the Heebner feed cutters in 1897 and numerous other inventions for which he and William D. Heebner had received patents, including threshing



*Nathaniel Metz,
Foreman of Heebner
and Sons*

machine improvements. He was also interested in the study and mounting of birds. He had a large collection of Florida birds, which he donated in 1914 to the Green Street School in Lansdale to be used in a permanent exhibit at the school.

By November of 1887, Heebner & Sons were doing an extensive business in steam heating systems. They heated Buchanan & Hough's new store in Ambler, Pa., the Perkiomen National Bank, the Peoples' National Bank of Norristown, the *Intelligencer* newspaper office in Doylestown, and J.S. Geller's mammoth store on Main Street in Lansdale. Altogether they had fifteen heaters to install in the area for the fall season.

Heebner's manufactured a sample plow which illustrated the principles for which Charles Jenkins secured a patent. Jenkins of Lansdale had for months been experimenting on a new plow which he proposed would make plowing easier for man and beast and do the work better in every respect. On April 9, 1881, he applied for the patent on his invention and it was issued June 21 1881. However, it was not until 1888 that the Heebner shops began work on this plow.

The invention pivoted the colter loosely to the plowshare on the frame of the plow; it secured to the side of the colter a guide wheel which was adapted to adjustment; it combined the guide wheel with

a scraper to clean the same; and, finally, it provided means to secure the colter rigidly in any desired position. Before this, plows had been made with rigid knife, wheel or plow colters, or with a spring arm, the guide wheel located some distance in advance of the colter. To keep the colter cutting uniformly in plows of the old construction it was necessary to make the plowshares change their level continuously by means of the front guidewheel secured to the frame. In this improved plow, the guidewheel was attached to the colter to automatically follow the variations in the level of the ground, and the plowshare turned the ground on a particularly uniform level and in a straight line. old style plows were generally too top heavy and could not be conveniently handled in the field. By locating the wheel at the front end of the pole and near the horses, the swingle trees or traces were liable to catch in short turning. Stones were liable to wedge between the colter and plow, throwing it out of the ground or stopping the team. The rigid wheel would not permit the plow to enter the ground to its proper depth, nor the colter to enter at all, until the plow had moved a considerable distance. The colter was usually set to run about two inches in depth and the plow, by the adjustable wheel on the beam, to run about four inches. This arrangement on level ground would turn a uniform furrow of six inches in depth, which could not be varied at the will of the plowman to suit deep or shallow soil in different parts of the field and even the same furrow. In order to keep the nose of the colter at all times, if possible, below the soil, the nose of the plow was turned downward, thus causing the unnecessary inclination to dip, and putting unnecessary pressure upon the wheel, consequently making unnecessary labor for the team. When the wheel was on a slight elevation of ground and the colter over a slight depression, the colter was entirely out of the ground, and when the wheel was in a slight depression and the colter in an elevation, it ran too deep and would not turn the grass under. In turning furrows left to right, when it came to the last furrow, the wheel could not be kept on it and the plow, having an inclination to dip, would, in spite of the plowman, run into the ground with old furrows: the plow would run some six inches deeper than the old furrow, turning up sometimes five or six inches of the clay subsoil.

With Jenkins' improved plow, all these imperfections were overcome by attaching the wheel which regulates the depth of the sod scalper to the colter and pivoting the latter to the plow frame. By this arrangement, the colter was free to automatically follow the variations in the level of the ground, cutting its two inches and no more in low as well as in high places, leaving the plow to run independently of it and subject to its natural inclination or to the will of the plowman;

no subsoil ever needed to be turned. To the plowshare or frame was pivoted an arm which extended in front of the plowshare and carried, firmly secured to it, a colter for cutting and turning the sod. There were several pivot holes for adjusting the pivot of the arm. This arm was guided vertically between two bars, secured between the frame and plowshare. The depth to be cut by the cutter could be adjusted by means of a bracket, so arranged that the colter could be raised and lowered at will. It could be raised and kept above the ground by means of the guide bars and pins. At the state fair, Jenkins' plow attracted a great deal of attention from several celebrated plow manufacturers, who pronounced it a good improvement.

In February of 1888, Isaac D. Heebner, who had retired from the firm, decided to return to the works, offered to purchase from the firm all the new and second hand machinery not manufactured at the Heebner Shops, and turned his attention to the sale of these farm implements. The firm proper wanted to devote all its attention to machines of its own manufacture. Isaac conducted this part of the business at warehouses of Heebner & Sons and advertised this new venture under the name of "I. D. Heebner" of Lansdale. He actively engaged in representing the leading implements of farm machinery and his long experience and close acquaintance with the farmers of the area at once gained their confidence in all business matters. His salesrooms of new and used machinery lasted only a short time, and in October of 1890, he sold the business back to his brother, William D. Heebner, now the sole owner of the firm. Isaac continued to work for the firm on occasion on a temporary basis as a general agent at fairs and exhibits.

In December of 1887, the borough of Lansdale expressed a desire to install an electric light system to illuminate the main street. At a meeting, held in Freeds Hall, they decided to employ the firm of Dallet & Company of Philadelphia to give a demonstration of the incandescent electric light on Main Street. Heebner and Sons furnished the motor and the wires of the Lansdale Electric Light Company. Heebner's furnished the power for the trial and later submitted a bid to the borough from the Lansdale Electric Light Company to supply service to Lansdale with their electricity. The other bidders were The Wheeler Reflector and Light Company Limited, the Pennsylvania Globe Gas Light Company, Thomas H. Dallett & Company, and The Enterprise Electric Company.

In August of 1888, Heebner & Sons held their first annual picnic for the employees of the firm; it was the largest private picnic ever seen in Lansdale. It took 37 strong horses and 16 wagons to transport the employees and their families to the romantic spot where

*Isaac D. Heebners'
Newspaper
Advertisements*

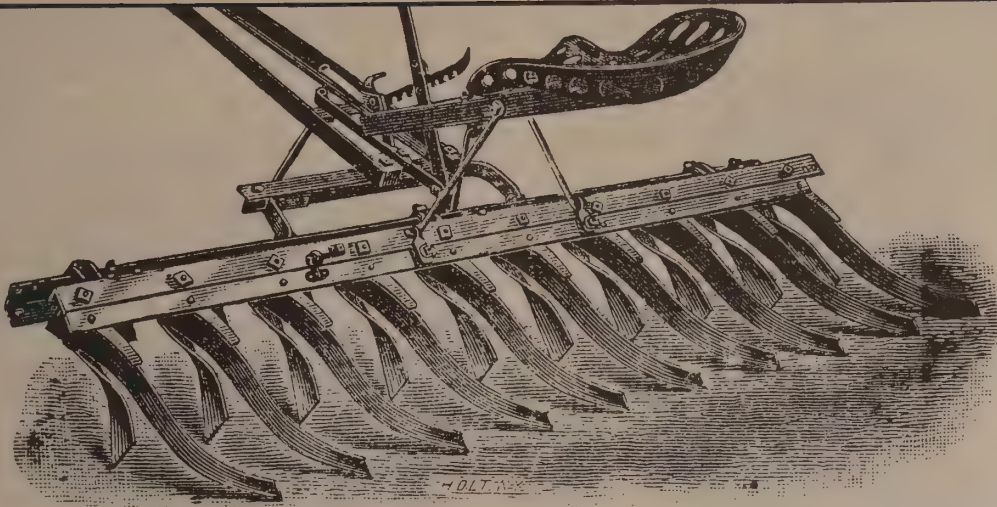
the Weldon House stood on the banks of the Perkiomen creek. The start was made shortly after seven o'clock and resembled a circus parade. William D. Heebner and his family in an easy riding carriage, drawn by two spirited mated horses, led the procession and next came the Lansdale Cornet Band riding in their splendid wagon, drawn by four horses. The shrill notes of all instruments attracted a large crowd to see the departure. Following the band wagon were five other large four-horse wagons, each packed with motley crowds of curious combinations, and these in turn were followed by vehicles of various sizes, making 16 wagons of all kinds in line. The four-horse wagons were all decorated with flags and unique banners containing appropriately original inscriptions relative to the work and the occasion. The start from Lansdale was really imposing, and even the



THE NEW WHITELY SOLID STEEL HARVEST AND GRAIN BINDER.
Open end elevator, will cut and bind rye seven feet high and not pull the heads through a canvass and tangle them, so it takes a man to pull the sheaves out, but will go through clean and clear, saving \$15.00 worth of grain in 20 acres. Cut is simple and sure, goes ahead through all the harvest.

THE WHITELY SOLID STEEL MOWER
Has no equal. New improvements never used on a mower before—will not run on the cut grass. Will give an exhibition of these machines in full operation every Saturday, at Lansdale, Pa. Come and see the machines before you buy or you will be sorry. Send for circulars to

I. D. HEEBNER,

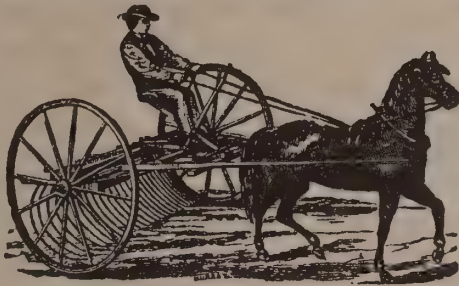


Acme Harrow, Clod Crusher and Leveler; over 700 farmers have them in use in Montgomery and Bucks counties. Will give this Harrow on trial and take as pay for Harrow the increased crops of ground harrowed with it. Buckeye Grain Drills, with glass feed fertilizer, no corroding or sticking fast, spring tooth. Big Iajun Sulky Plows, Harrow Plow, Potato Diggers, Plow Shares and Castings for different plows. Buckeye Cider Mills. Becke Washing Machines given on trial. Farm Wagons with complete hay body, high seat, three brakes on wand, Champion or Auburn style. The most sure and honest Fertilizers for sale; but don't forget Heebner & Sons' Horse Powers, Threshers, etc.; the leading machines of the kind in the world.

I. D. HEEBNER,
LANSDALE, PA.

Late of HEEBNER & SONS.

HEEBNERS' HORSE POWERS,



Threshers and Cleaners, Feed Cutters, Land Rollers, &c. Mowers, Reapers, Open Canvas Harvesters and Binders, Self-Dump Hay Rake, the Tiger. Hensch Riding Cultivator, Acme Harrow, Clod Crusher and Leveler with Sulky, Spring Tooth Harrows, Corn Planters,

Grain Drills, Steel Plows, Hay Tedders, Farm Wagons, Binder Twine, Fertilizers, &c.

Send your address and get circulars and printed matter **FREE** from

I. D. HEEBNER,

LANSDALE, PA.

Late of HEEBNER & SONS.

Have an experience of over thirty-five years in manufacturing and dealing in Farm Machinery and now will give my entire time to wholesale and retail of the above and best line of machines. **Heebner & Sons' Wareroom.**

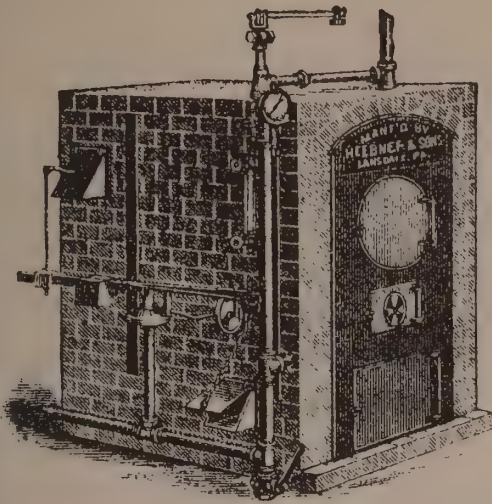
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plumed and capricious horses seemed to feel their importance and put on many airs. The weather was delightful but the march was not devoid of unexpected incidents. One of these unexpected features was supplied by the wagon immediately following the band, a team of which the owner and driver, Joseph Heebner, might have felt proud. First the large banner was broken down by an unnoticed limb of a tree extending over the road shortly after leaving Lansdale. Before long, a pin was lost leaving the swingle tree on the legs of the rear horse. This caused a stop and repairs were made with a rope. At Kulpville the teams were well together when the lead stopped to pay for the toll unnoticed by the same ill fated wagon; when the lead horses stopped up against the band wagon the wagon kept on moving, mixing up the horses, the tongue running between the legs of one of them. The horses veered, ran the fore wheels into a bank by the road, broke the tongue, and for a few seconds it was uncertain whether or not the excited horses could be managed and a serious runaway averted. Fortunately the horses were caught and pacified, repairs made, and after a fifteen minute delay, the journey was again begun. The first order to halt was given at Skippackville, where the horses and some of the men were watered and a short rest given. It was well after eleven o'clock when the clear waters of the Perkiomen were first seen. The innkeepers of the Weldon House looked with wide-open eyes at the dismounting of the largest crowd of pleasure seekers that ever visited that secluded spot. The Weldon House was large and hospitable in management. The picnickers flocked to the small groves to enjoy their lunch and pass the time of day at playing ball, quoit pitching, snoozing and reading. Several disciples of Isaac Walton came prepared to spend the day fishing, but the majority of the company kept together and enjoyed themselves in Sunday School picnic style. A game of ball between the married men on one side and the single men on the other was one of the chief features of the afternoon. Everybody seemed to have a good time and the start home was made shortly after six o'clock. The cavalcade arrived home shortly after nine o'clock with banners flying, music playing and without harm or accident to anyone.

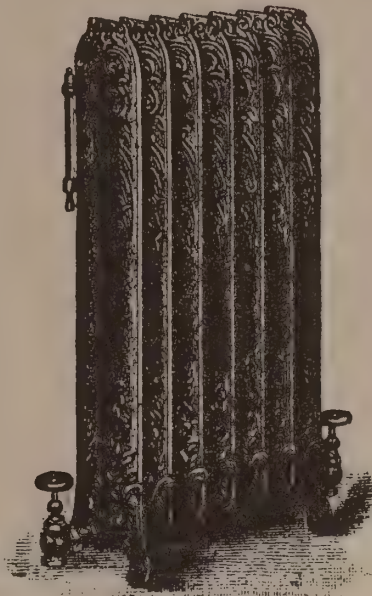
At this time Heebner's rapidly extended its reputation in steam heating, in addition to its regular manufacture of agriculture implements. The firm contracted to heat the House of Representatives, Senate Building and Executive Mansion at Harrisburg for a total sum of \$3500.00. This was considerably less than the State of Pennsylvania paid in former years and the firm made a reasonable profit. It also heated the John Wanamaker Church at Jenkintown, Pa.

The Heebner works had its own baseball team called "The

Steam and Hot Water Heaters.



We manufacture our own boilers and radiators for either hot water or steam heating—neat and pretty in design, and strong and durable. Our boilers are set in brick and do not overheat cellars, take less fuel and last longer than any portable boiler made. Lowest prices and satisfaction guaranteed. Send for circular.



HEEBNER & SONS, Lansdale, Pa.,

Heebner Nine". One of the teams they competed against was the team from the local stove works, "The Abram Cox Boys." William D. Heebner loved the game of baseball and in his later years formed the Lansdale athletic league by donating ground to be used for a baseball field.

In August of 1888, Heebner & Sons began to work nights to keep up with orders. They used the incandescent electric lights which were recently installed at the works. The firm had shipped machinery to the Dakota territory, New York State, Missouri, Massachusetts, Maine and various points in Pennsylvania. Almost a carload a week was shipped to some point around the world. The firm arranged to attend the following fairs in 1888; Mount Holly, New Jersey, Bradford, Doylestown, Pottstown, Columbia, Oxford and Kutztown—all in Pennsylvania. A shipment was also made to Prince Edward Island.

David S. Heebner, now Lansdale's oldest resident, voted for William Henry Harrison for President in 1840. He not only voted for the old general but exerted an influence on his behalf. In company of A. H. Seipt of Skippack and Charles White, Sr. of Whites Corner, he visited Mr. Harrison shortly after he had entered the White House. The old soldier statesman clasped the hands of the Heebner party and

gave them a hardy welcome. Miss Beckie Miller, a niece of Heebner, had a beautiful hair wreath in her possession, the work of her own hands, and in the wreath was woven some of the white hair from the mane of General Harrison's War Horse. Heebner had purchased the hair from a man who had had charge of the famous old horse.

During the year 1888, Heebner & Sons paid their employees in wages a total of \$29,054.68 and the firm also produced a lithograph calendar for the coming year.

The first annual elections of the new Lansdale fire company known as "The Lansdale Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1", were held at Music Hall on February 2, 1889. William D. Heebner, its founder, was elected as president of the new fire company.

During the year of 1889, Heebner's was manufacturing or selling the following items; the Steam Heating Apparatus, general foundry and machine items, steam engines, boilers for heating factories, houses' and public buildings' castings of all types, and iron fencing; they were also repairing mill machinery, specializing in preparing turnings and refacing new process rollers. The firm this year had 35 years' experience in business selling horse powers, threshers and cleaners, feed cutters, land rollers and mowers and reapers, open canvas harvesters and binders, self dump hay rakes, the Tiger hench riding cultivators, the Acme harrow, clod crusher and leveler with sulky, spring tooth harrows, corn planters, grain drills, steel plows, hay tedders, farm wagons, manure spreaders, binder twine and fertilizers.

On December 5, 1889, William D. Heebner purchased the plant of the old Lansdale Electric Company. A small company was formed for the purpose of operating the plant to furnish Lansdale streets with electricity for incandescent, as well as arc light in stores and dwellings. The company consisted of W.D. Heebner, A.C. Godshall, J.C. Godshall, R.A. Shepard and F.S. Wilgas.

In April, 1890, ground was broken for a new building in the rear of the agricultural works, fronting on the North Penn Railroad line. The purpose of this building was to house the offices and printing department of the *Lansdale Republican*, a newspaper owned by William D. Heebner. Also that year, William D. Heebner was a republican candidate for the State Senate. He was an active campaigner and had never been defeated as a candidate for any office. Mr. Heebner had been elected Burgess of Lansdale in 1882 and 1883 and to the State Assembly in 1884, being re-elected in 1886. He introduced his bill for Valley Forge during his first term. However in this race for Senate Mr. Heebner was badly defeated in almost every



*Lansdale Railroad
Station with Heebner
Tower in Rear*

district of the county.

On December 1, 1891, David S. Heebner was appointed postmaster of Lansdale by President Harrison, in which office he served his full term. With the term of Horace E. Jenkins expiring Mr. Heebner was one of three applicants all of whom had considerable following. The others were Jacob S. Geller, proprietor of the Grand Emporium, and Allen M. Boorse. At the end of Mr. Heebner's term, he was succeeded by William L. Diehl. Mr. Heebner's retirement from the Post Office marked the close of his business career.

Heebner's were employed to manufacture a large crane to be used in Tattnall Paulding's stone quarry in North Wales, Pa. It also received an order for six threshing machines to be shipped to Russia, fourteen machines to be shipped to the Pacific Coast and an order to be shipped to Africa.

In April of 1892, William D. Heebner organized a new industry in Lansdale called The Babcock Shoe Company, and he became one of the largest contributors to the new firm which was located on Main Street in a building owned by Mrs. Knight. Mr. Heebner assisted Babcock in acquiring a lease and fitting up his new shoe works. There were in all twenty-eight Lansdale businessmen who were stock holders to start the company with Heebner appointed as trustee and representing the interest of the community contributors.

Meanwhile the Heebner firm was moving out in other directions. The Heebner horse powers and threshing machines were now sold by the Montgomery Ward Company of Chicago, Illinois in their 1892 Farm Machinery catalogue. They advertised the horse power at a price of \$72.00 for the one-horse and \$91.00 for the two-horse. The thresher and cleaner was advertised for a price of \$225.00, mounted on a truck. They also sold the Heebner patent drag saw at a price of \$48.00. In the catalogue the Heebner name was visible on the sides of the machines, although the Montgomery Ward Company made an effort to disguise the brand name from customers. This was Heebner's first attempt to be a branch manufacturer for an other firm.

In June of 1892, Heebner & Sons began to manufacture map rollers and exhibiting machines for Charles S. Jenkins, a Lansdale banker, who called his patent invention the Jenkins' Manifold Revolving Map Rack. It was one of the simplest, handiest contrivances for the purposes intended that has ever been devised by man. It was not only designed for maps, but for pictures, drawings, samples, wallpaper and various other purposes. The articles could be unrolled for inspection by the turn of the crank and as quickly rolled up again, and were always kept in the most perfect condition. Mr. Jenkins obtained his patent in 1889 and made the last improvement in 1892. There was a fortune in the patent for the right kind of person to push the sale of the rollers and the rights to sell it. These roller maps were placed in the city Post Office in Washington, D.C. and the United States Post Office there, in the Treasury Department, the House of Representatives, the National Senate Building, and the Agricultural Department building of the Capitol City. The roller maps were used in the Marine Hospital and various places in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Brooklyn, New York City and Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. They were even called for in Florida, San Francisco, Iowa and many railroad offices. The invention had a total sale of \$2700.00 without any advertising and Jenkins retained the patent himself. The Heebners manufactured the rollers for him as fast as orders were received. Jenkins' map rollers were exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 by the Post Office and Treasury Departments of the Federal Government. The machines for the fair were handsomely made by Heebner & Sons; all the wood was carved in an artistic manner and finished throughout at considerable cost.

Heebner & Sons, were working overtime to keep up with orders coming in from all parts of the country. The firm shipped daily to all parts of the United States and into foreign lands. The local or home

trade, however, had been dropping off. The farmers of Bucks and Montgomery counties were not in comfortable financial circumstances at that time, but, nevertheless, owing to the demand for Heebner's horse powers and threshers, the works were compelled to work from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The firm shipped several machines to Russia and six threshers to Germany, continually receiving orders from far off lands.

The only agricultural fair Heebner's was able to attend in 1892 was held in York, Pa. Isaac D. Heebner and Joseph C. Rosenberry, agents for the firm, were at the fair to attend to the interest of the firm. They returned home with three premiums; a premium for the best horse power, the best threshing machine and the best fodder cutter. Heebner's was now making plans to attend and exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago with a large stock of machinery.

William D. Heebner travelled to Virginia to one of the largest peanut plantations in that state. The firm had been manufacturing machinery to thresh peanuts, and in order to discover the success of the machine Heebner thought it necessary to go where the firm could see it in operation. The Virginia planters were well pleased with the Heebner Peanut Thresher and many orders were given to Heebner to process on his return home.

In the Spring of "93", Heebner's had a very busy schedule receiving orders from the far north west, Tennessee, California, New York state and some local Pennsylvania farmers. It was unusual for such large orders to be received at this season of the year. The firm was now producing new machines which included root cutters, field rollers, spring-tooth level adjustable harrows, and corn markers. They also sold fodder crushers, wood sawing machines, corn shellers, hay tedders, buckeye low down binders, Champion, Deering and Buckeye mowers, Tiger and Wiard hay rakes, Syracuse and Wiard plows, Iron Age, Hench and Buckeye riding cultivators, Acme pulverizing harrows, Buckeye grain drills, Aspinwall potato planters and plow castings of all kinds.

Isaac D. Heebner went to Chicago in March of 1893, where he was in charge of the Heebner & Sons exhibition of patent machinery at the World's Fair celebration. He was joined by J.L. True who assisted in setting up the exhibit. At this Fair, Heebner's received the highest award, a medal from the managers and judges of the World's Fair for their level tread horse power. No award was made on the thresher because the firm combined and refused to enter into a competition with their threshing machine. The contests at the World's Fair were expensive and if the requests of the judges had been honored and complied with, a large outlay of money would have been

involved since the trials for the thresher were scheduled to be held in the State of Dakota. Mr. Heebner had reason to be proud of the medal that was awarded to his firm since it was the inventor of the level tread horse power and scores of competitors were now imitating their production as nearly as they safely could. The original and genuine level tread carried off the prize. In this case merit won not only in the granting of medals by the World's Fair commissioners, but in the trade as well where everywhere the Heebner machines were recognized as the best.

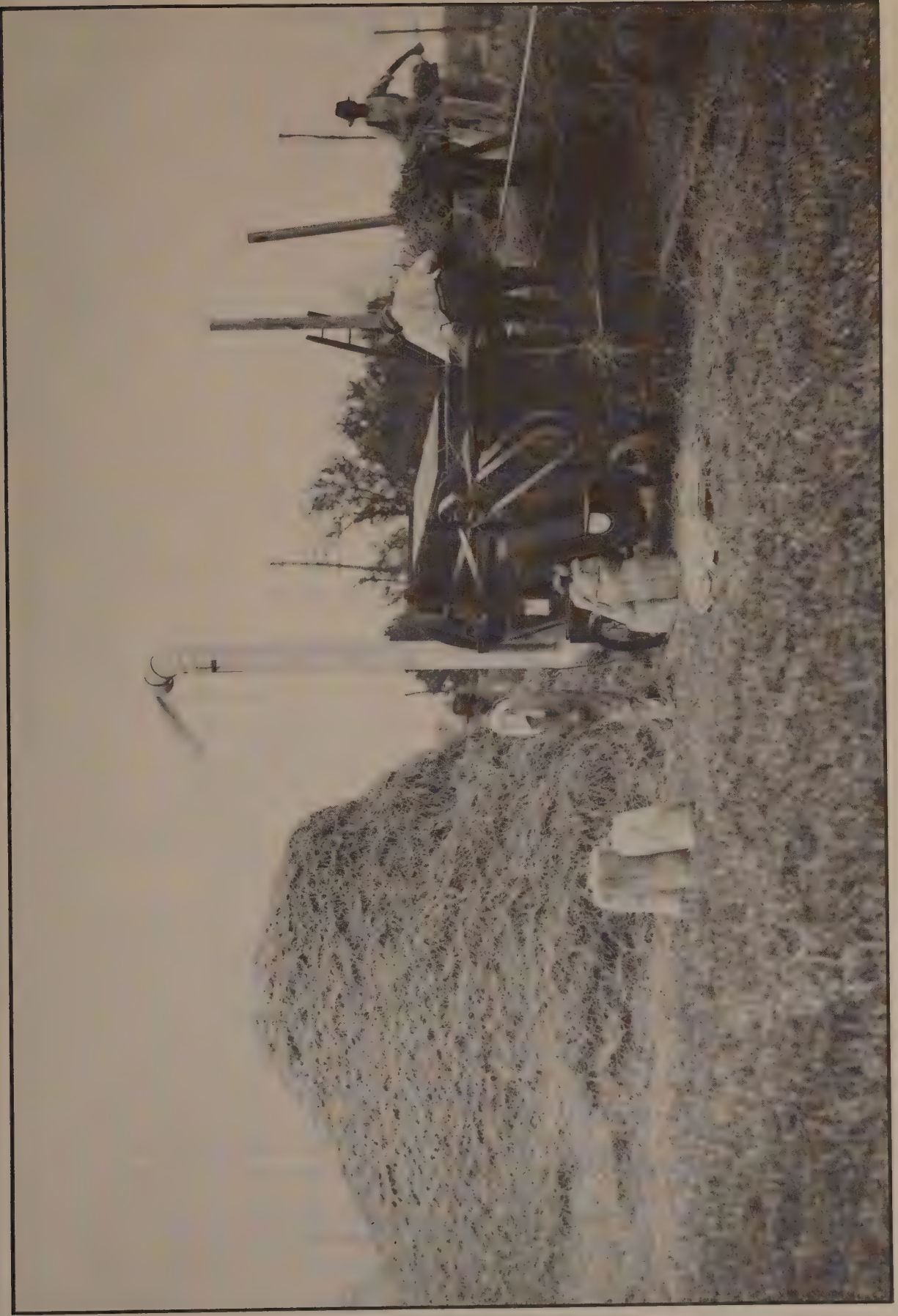
The firm shipped an order for six of their celebrated Railway Powers and six circular sawing machines to the United States government. The machines were shipped to one of the western depots. They also received orders for three grain and peanut threshers from North Carolina and a large order from the state of Maine.

Heebner's erected a sample Wind Engine on the grounds near the foundry to be used to demonstrate their latest sales item. The engine was made entirely of steel and all parts were galvanized to prevent them from rusting. The firm had erected these wind machines for Frank Houston of Gwynedd, Atherholt & Schaffer of Horsham, and for a farmer in Plumstead Township, Bucks County. Heebner & Sons did not confine their sales to any one machine but had several of the leading wind machines to offer their customers. The firm also started to manufacture its own style of iron fencing.

In the spring of 1894, William D. Heebner made several business purchases in Lansdale. In January he formed a partnership with George W. Babcock under the firm name The Babcock Shoe Company. Babcock was president and Heebner served as secretary and treasurer. The company manufactured ladies' shoes. In February Heebner purchased the interest of Robert A. Shepard in the Lansdale newspaper called *The Republican*. He bought Shepard's interest for only \$100.00 and became sole owner of the newspaper. He hired the Harvey Brothers as editors and made plans to run an agricultural section weekly in the paper.

The firm received an order from Melbourne, Australia, for a Little Giant thresher and cleaner and shipped nine threshers to Russia and Germany.

David S. Heebner, now retired from the firm, completed a clock which showed upon its face the correct time at various points. The clock had six dials and these marked the time in Florida, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Boston, Yoda, Japan, and China. When wound up the clock would run for eight days and was not only a wonderful mechanism but a curiosity as well. Heebner, in 1894, was eighty four years of age. Very few people who have attained the age of



William D. Heebner Threshing Grain near Lansdale

Mr. Heebner could use carpentry tools with the same perfection and ability.

J.C. Rosenberry, agent for the firm, was in charge of a fine exhibition of machinery at the Mt. Gretna Grangers' picnic. Two cars of implements were shipped, consisting of two-horse double-gear level tread powers, with No. 2 Little Giant threshers and cleaners, all mounted on wheels. Also shipped were one-horse direct-gear level tread with a No.3 Pennsylvania thresher and cleaner, a No.2 cutter with crusher, a No.3 and No.4 fodder cutter, a farm feed mill with cob crusher, a daisy saw machine, some spring tooth harrows and a Moe hay press. Rosenberry also attended the Williams Grove Grangers' picnic with the same exhibit. The firm also exhibited at the Maine State Fair in August of 1894 under the supervision of Isaac D. Heebner and completed an order for ten horse powers shipped to Wisconsin dealers. In September the firm exhibited at the Trenton and Allentown State Fairs. J.C. Rosenberry represented the firm at Allentown, Pa., and I.D. Heebner at Trenton, New Jersey.

For some time, the Heebner agricultural works had been engaged in producing a new style portable steam and hot water heater which was designed by William D. Heebner. The heater proved very satisfactory, providing a sufficient amount of steam to heat a house in a few minutes. The heater was designed to supply the demand for either a steam or hot water heater. It was comparatively inexpensive, and was portable. This boiler, as well as all other parts produced by the firm, was made in Lansdale and is one of the home industries that added to the wealth of the working people of the borough. The boiler required no walling in and Heebner, having the confidence that he had a good thing, began production of these new heaters, and installed his first at the newly built Keller's Church in Bucks County, Pa.

At that time the firm was also selling many windmills. The brand which sold best was the Steel Star Windmill, which it boasted was the best made, and more powerful and durable than any others. It could be painted or galvanized, made a stroke of the pump to every revolution of the wheel, was perfectly self governed and reliable, and was cheaper for pumping than steam or horse power by not burning coal or eating hay, oats, or corn.

Heebners' iron fence business had increased and in the spring of 1895, it had orders for 3500 feet of fence of various styles, and was forced to hire more men to install the fence. Seven hundred feet was erected around the Gehman Mennonite Meeting House located near Telford, Pa.

On May 8, 1895, Thomas T. Ridington, who had so long and

faithfully acted as superintendent of the Heebner foundry, resigned his position. He was succeeded by his son, John Ridington, who had been a foreman in the foundry for several years. T.T. Ridington started his career as a carpenter and worked in Norristown for the firm of Boyer & Wentz. He remained with this firm until January, 1875, when he moved to Lansdale and established himself in the iron business, purchasing the foundry of Roberts & Thomas on Chestnut Street. In 1876, he sold the foundry business to Heebner & Sons and remained with the firm until his retirement.

On the same day, J.L. True, who for many years was a general agent for Heebner & Sons, resigned his position with the firm and accepted a position with A.W. Gray & Sons of Middle Springs, Vermont, manufacturers of threshing machinery. Mr. True was very familiar with this area since he had spent most of his time as the Heebner agent to Maine and Nova Scotia. Both of these men were of great importance to the agricultural works and their absence affected the future sales and output of the firm.

In June, Heebner & Sons received an order from Germany for eight threshing machines, and shipped twenty-eight level tread horse powers and fourteen threshers and cleaners to various parts of United States. Their stock had diminished and the firm had to start working twelve hours a day, starting at six o'clock a.m. and working until seven o'clock p.m., to keep up with demands. At this time, Harry S. Gerhart was foreman of the wood department at the works.

The foundry was also very busy filling orders for 35 tons of castings which were used in the Fidelity Storage Company and the Datz & Bros., Mill Buildings in Philadelphia. The size of this order, in addition to its unusual nature, required the foundry to work overtime.

In August of 1895 Isaac D. Heebner, represented the firm at an exhibit at the Maine State Fair in Lewiston. The Heebner machines were always very popular in the State of Maine so the firm always tried to have an outstanding display each year at the fair. The Maine trade, thus far in 1895, amounted to the shipment of twenty-four two-horse powers, twenty-four threshers and cleaners, five one-horse powers, six one-horse cleaners, nineteen sawing machines and two cutters, making a total of eighty machines, with a number of orders to follow later in the year. A.K. Geho and his assistant, Isaac Jones, were in charge of the shipping department of Heebner & Sons.

In September, J.C. Rosenberry, general agent, attended the Tunkhannock Fair in Wyoming County, Pa., and Isaac D. Heebner had charge of the exhibit at the Greater Interstate Fair at Trenton, New Jersey. At that time as well a meeting was held at the home of

David S. Heebner to discuss the possibility of building a Schwenkfelder chapel in Lansdale. A committee of Dr. Meschter, William D. Heebner, and John Schultz of Worcester was appointed to investigate the purchase of ground for the proposed chapel.

The Heebner works built an extraordinarily large two-horse level tread power for the Fleetwood Driving Park, designed for training and exercising brooding stock during the cold weather. The power was twelve feet three inches long. The firm also received two export orders: one for four level tread powers and four threshers to be shipped to Germany and the other for three corn shellers to be shipped to South Africa.

In February, 1896, Heebner & Sons completed the building of a powerful magnesia grinder for the Keasbey & Mattison Chemical Works of Ambler, Pa. The machine weighed about 3500 pounds and was tested in the shops of Heebners. It ran at a high rate of speed, running as smoothly as a threshing machine.

William D. Heebner reported a strong demand for his celebrated feed cutter with crusher attached. From New York state came news that the Heebner cutter was in a contest with the Ohio-Hero and the Bell City cutters. The Heebner machine came off victorious, doing more work in filling silos than either of the above machines and being operated with a one-horse power, while the other machines operated with a two-horse power. The crowded conditions in the works this year were not only due to the demand for the cutter. The call for level tread powers, feed mills, saws and other machinery was an hourly occurrence. The firm's steam and hot water heating systems were also in great demand.

The Steel Star Windmill had become a very popular item among farmers and the number sold in 1896 was surprisingly large. It was not only efficient but majestic in appearance. Heebner's stocked a large assortment of windmills for the year 1897, anticipating a growth in sales. They ordered in large quantities, which entitled them to a jobbers price and saved on freight; the advantage went to the customer. The firm boasted that all windmills manufactured and sold at this time were inferior to the Steel Star. The firm's men erected these windmills without help from the property owner, brought their hoisting apparatus into play, and did the work quickly and carefully.

Heebner's received an order from California by telegraph for a carload of their three-horse mounted threshers and cleaners. This order meant a sale of seven of the largest machines that Heebner & Sons manufactured. The firm also shipped an order for four Little Giant threshers and cleaners to Germany.

In April, 1897, Heebner's made another map roller for Jenkins,

cashier of the Lansdale National Bank, who received the order from the Topographic Branch of the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. The map roller was six feet in length and was made of black walnut with carved semi-circular heads. It was capable of carrying thirty-four maps for use at the meeting of the Universal Postal Union held in Washington.

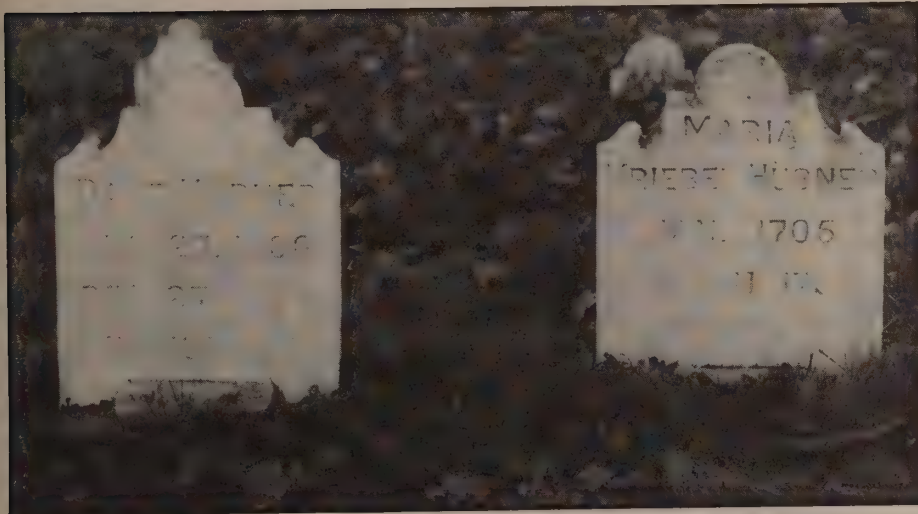
The Reminiscences of David S. Heebner

On June 25th, 1897, David S. Heebner, founder of the works, celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday by recollecting his past life experiences. He was born in Worcester Township in 1810 and always lived in this immediate vicinity, being respected by all who knew him. As a boy and young man, Heebner remembered the bustling little town of Lansdale as a swamp covered with briars and bushes, while the higher ground of the outskirts was wooded with remnants of a primeval forest. He claimed the honor of erecting the first building in Lansdale which was used as a feed store and stood at the corner on Courtland Street, near Green and next to Bartholomews' Gallery. In this building Heebner and Henry Derstine were partners, the business being conducted by Derstine, who bought Heebner's interest at the expiration of the first year. At that time, Lansdale was but a crossroad, the feed store forming a nucleus around which the town grew. Heebner remembered when Norristown, Pa., was not as large as Lansdale and when, as a small boy, he had accompanied his parents to Norristown where his mother did her shopping at Hammel's Dry Goods store, the only store of that kind in Norristown at that time; it stood on the spot of the James Hoovendon property, later occupied by the Masonic Lodge. He also remembered when the Hartranft House was bordered on all sides with grass and grain fields; when there was not a single house, except the residences of prosperous farmers, west of the Stony Creek; when the compact part of the town located along the Schuylkill River was a meadow covered with pond lillies rearing their heads above the stagnant water; when the descendants of the early settlers of Norriton Township plowed, sowed and harvested within a stone's throw of the old courthouse and jail; when a building occupied by Sower for a bookstore was bought by Sower's father for a small sum by reason of its being "Too far out of town"; when the old Academy stood up on the hill on Dekalb Street with spacious ground around it. This space had long since given way to palatial residences, stores and the Lutheran church.

In connection with the Academy, Heebner remembered one occasion when he was present at a fourth of July celebration. The

principle feature of that jolly event, which he never forgot, was the firing of the cannon located on the hill near the academy. Shot after shot was fired, shaking the town from center to circumference, the concussion shattering nearly every pane of glass in the academy. But such a trifle as that did not smother the patriotism of the boys of 1820.

Throughout his whole life, David S. Heebner was a devout member of the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church, his religion being an inheritance from a long line of cherished ancestry. The Heebner family was of German descent and was one of the number of families that were driven from Germany because of their religious beliefs. David's ancestors, David Heebner and his wife Marie, came to Philadelphia in 1734, settling in Montgomery County as a part of a small community known as Schwenkfelders. Their son, George Heebner, born in 1744, married Susanna Heydrick and their only child was Balthasar Heebner, who was a farmer in Worcester Township and a minister in the Schwenkfelder church. David S. Heebner was the son of this Balthasar and Susanna Heebner.



*Burial Site of David
and Maria Hubner,
immigrants*

Moving Toward the Twentieth Century

In September, 1897, Josiah D. Heebner designed and completed a rotary motor which he had been working on for years. The motor was designed to run threshers, fodder cutters and light machinery for farmers. As completed, the motor was run by steam, but Heebner had plans for perfecting this same motor to be run with compressed air. If successful with this idea, his motor would revolutionize the machinery-driven appliances of the country. Heebner planned to give his motor the first practical test on the farm of his brother Jacob Heebner of Worcester, where he would run a fodder cutter to cut enough ensilage to fill his brother's silo.

Heebner & Sons was filling orders for powers, threshers and cleaners and fodder cutters for South Africa and the West Indies. In the month of September of 1896 the firm had employed sixty-three men and seventy-one during 1897.

The firm was now stocking the Myers Pumps. All these pumps were furnished with the Myers patent glass valve seat and the pumps would not freeze. The motto of the pump manufacturing company was "Not how cheap, but how good". Heebner's sold these pumps because of the quality in design, workmanship and finish. They also sold round silos of all sizes.

In January of 1899, Heebner & Sons shipped a carload of threshing machines to Asia, where they enjoyed a large trade. They also booked orders for ten threshers and cleaners, which were to be shipped to Siberia in Russia and five to Hamburg, Germany.

William D. Heebner purchased from W.H. Rosenberry, the large brick building at the corner of Broad and Jenkins Avenue in Lansdale, which was operated by Rosenberry as a carriage repository and as a butcher shop by W.B. Moyer. He also purchased much land belonging to A.C. Godshall in the rear of the building, fronting on Jenkins Avenue and extending from Rosenberry's building to the coal yard of C.B. Lamborn. The price paid for both properties was about \$6000.00. Heebner planned to remove the old structures on the lot and build a large brick building with a salesroom on the entire first floor; the second and third floors were to be used for storage rooms. Heebner took possession of this property on June 1, 1899. Rosenberry relocated his carriage repository and salesroom on a lot on Broad Street adjoining the residence of his father, C.C. Rosenberry.

In 1899, several of Heebner's customers residing in the states of Virginia and North Carolina, having owned and successfully used the firm's level tread horse powers and Little Giant threshers and cleaners, addressed letters to Heebner's asking that the firm manufacture

for them a machine that would "pull" peanuts from the vines. They assured the firm that there would be a large demand for such machines if they could be made to work successfully and sold at a reasonable price. So numerous were the letters that came to Heebner's and so important were machines of this type to the southern farmer that the firm set about to see what could be immediately designed and manufactured. The Heebner's visited plantations where peanuts were grown, taking with them experimental machines, and soon found that the firm could, with very little difficulty, build a combined grain and peanut machine, one that could be used to thresh all the grain crops and then be used, with attachments, to "pull" the peanut crops. A limited number of these machines were soon manufactured, sold, and voted a complete success.

In 1899 Heebner's manufactured more roller maps for Charles Jenkins, who received an order for eight of his patent seventy-four inch long rollers from the Treasury Department in Washington to be placed in the following government offices; the Sub Treasury Building in Boston; the Custom House in Cincinnati; the Court House and Post Office in Chattanooga; the Custom House and Post Office in Denver; the Custom House in New Orleans; the Court House and Post Office in Philadelphia; the Court House and Post Office in New York; the Custom House in St. Louis. Also an order was received for five map rollers for the Quartermaster's Office of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C. These map rollers were manufactured exclusively by Heebner & Sons.

The firm shipped four threshing outfits to Tasmania, south of Australia. This little island was said to be the most fertile of the Australian group and one hundred bushels of wheat to the acre was common there. The trade of the agricultural works was unusually large in the summer of "99" and this prompted Heebner to make an extraordinary effort to put a fine display of his machinery at the Export Exposition, held in Philadelphia in the fall. The firm also exhibited at the Mt. Gretna Fair.

In August, Heebner & Sons manufactured large iron gates for the entrances of the Lansdale Cemetery to replace the decayed wooden gates. The new gates were attached to new stone walls and piers erected of grenoble gray sandstone by Benjamin Weikel, stonemason. The tops of the piers were cut of stone by D.N. Holshouser, who operated a memorial works in Lansdale. It required a derrick to place the gates in position and cost the cemetery company about \$400.00.

The firm received orders for twenty-five threshers and cleaners to be shipped to Europe by November, 1899. This was the second order to be shipped to a foreign country within two weeks, making a

total of thirty-three machines. Eight of these were shipped to Blagow, China. The large order required the iron shops of the firm to start working at 6:45 a.m. and quit at 9:45 p.m. Other countries receiving machinery were Russia and Germany. Twenty machines were sent to South America.

Chalkley Jarrett, who manufactured horse powers in the agricultural works, had made, within the last four years of the nineteenth century 1075 powers. Chalkley stated that if these powers were all put together end-to-end they would make a string two miles long, and that the steel rods used in construction of the tracks placed in the same position would cover a distance of over eighteen miles.

In 1899 Heebner's received an order, from the government, for a carload of powers and wood sawing machines for use with the standing army. The firm's wood sawing outfits were exceedingly popular in the army. The firm also received an award, a medal, for their display of machinery at the Export Exposition in Philadelphia.

On March 14, 1900, David S. Heebner, founder of the firm and now aged 89, had his picture taken by the local photographer, Mr. Bartholomew. The photo represented four successive generations and included David S. Heebner of Lansdale, his son, Jacob, grandson David (son of Jacob) and great grandson, Amos (son of David)—all from Worcester township. The taking of the photo was contemplated for some time and was hastened by the illness of the great grandfather. Mr. Heebner's porch, where the picture was taken, was very tastefully decorated with rugs and potted plants.

By the end of April, David S. Heebner was critically ill and on May 14, 1900, after a long and eventful life extending over a period of nearly ninety years, he wrapped the drapery of his couch about him and lay down to pleasant dreams. Though unexpected by many, his death was not unlooked for by his family. He had been failing in health and the end was daily expected. His remarkable vitality, however, withstood the ravages of disease longer than anticipated by his family. Heebner was probably the oldest resident of Lansdale and had he lived until the twenty-fifth of June, he would have been ninety years of age. Kind and of an even temperament, he was loved by all who knew him; in fact, he belonged to a type of old school gentleman, now almost extinct—dignified in his bearing yet social, solicitous of his fellow citizens' welfare yet not obtrusive, and charitable and benevolent when appeals commended themselves to his consideration.

David was an active Whig and Republican. He married twice; his first wife was Anna Derstein and they had eight children, of whom William D., Isaac D., Josiah D. and Jacob D. survived. His second



Four Generations: David S., Jacob, David and Amos Heebner

wife, whose maiden name was Regina Y. Schultz, daughter of a Berks County Schwenkfelder minister, died January 2, 1898 at the age of 86 years. To this union but one child was born, Abraham, who died at the age of five years. Heebner was an indefatigable worker in his chosen occupation, laboring under great difficulties in the beginning. The materials for his first horse power were cut with a hand saw.

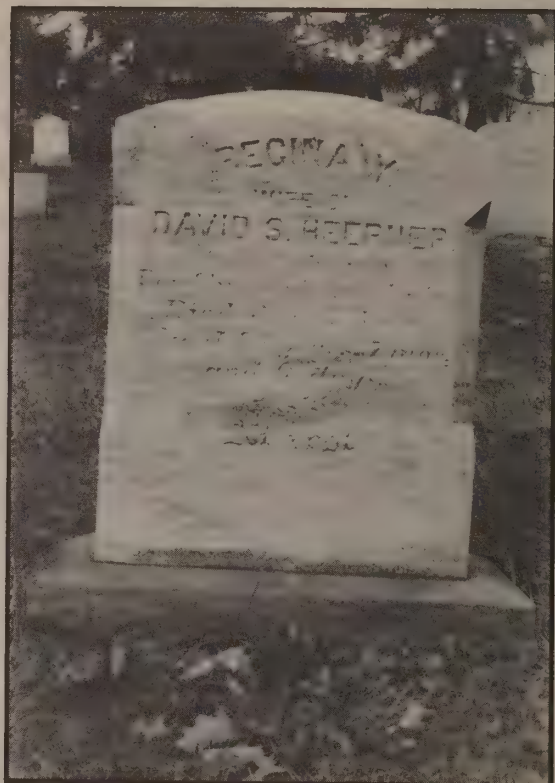
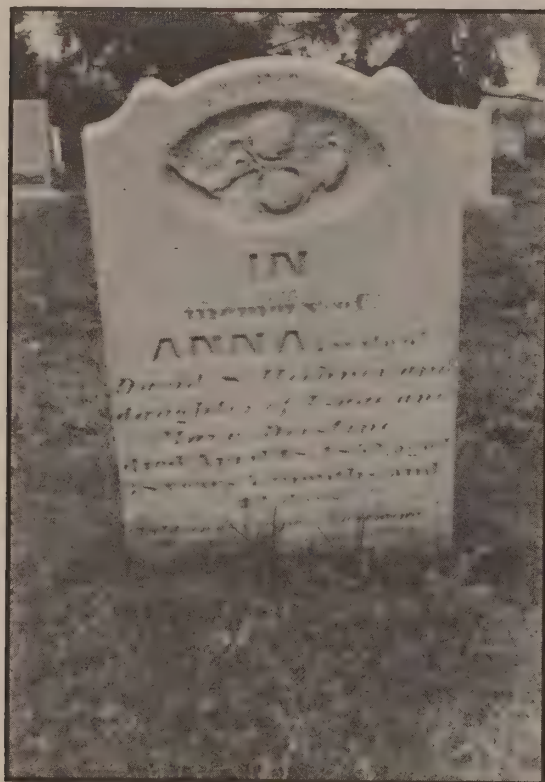
His funeral was the largest held in Lansdale for many years. The services at the house were conducted by Dr. G.K. Meschter, pastor of the Towamensin Schwenkfelder Church, assisted by Rev. J.J. Rothrock, pastor of St. John's Reformed Church of Lansdale. At the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church, of which Heebner was a life-long member, services were conducted by Rev. William S. Anders ex-County Treasurer, Samuel F. Jarrett of Jeffersonville, Samuel Rittenhouse of Worcester, John S. Heebner of Towamencin, William A. Schultz of Worcester and Isaac S. Jones and Edwin K. Kriebel of Lansdale, acted as bearers. Mr. Jarrett and Mr. Rittenhouse were chosen as representatives of the Norristown Market Company, of which David S. Heebner was president for many years. Mr. Schultz and Mr. Heebner were representatives of his chosen church and Mr. Jones and Mr. Kriebel were chosen because of being the oldest employees of the Lansdale agricultural works, which was closed down during the day out of respect for the founder and, for many years, part owner.

On July 12, the real estate belonging to David S. Heebner, consisting of his residence at Main Street and Broad Streets, seventy-nine acres of land situated in Florida and a lot on the Main Street of Lansdale, were offered at public sale. Also sold were ten shares of stock in the Lansdale Water Company, two shares of stock in the Lansdale and Gwynedd Square Turnpike Company, ten shares of stock in the Stony Creek Railroad Company, three shares of stock in the Farmers' Market of Norristown and one shed at the Towamencin Meeting House and one at the Worcester Schwenkfelder Meeting House. A long list of household goods, including his sleigh and Phaeton wagon were sold by order of his four sons.

The old homestead of David S. Heebner in Lansdale was purchased at his public sale by Miss Dora Weidner for a price of \$1500.00 and she planned to turn it into a first class boarding house, which in later years was known as the Eitherton Hotel. The lot on Main Street was purchased by John Hocker for \$405.00 and George Anders of Norristown, purchased original manuscripts which were from 150 to 300 years old. These manuscripts were preached by ministerial ancestors of the Schwenkfelder Church and were found in



*Burial Site of David
S. Heebner and
Wives*



Mr. Heebner's possession at the time of his death. These valuable papers were purchased for only \$4.50.

By the death of the founder the advent of the automobile and kindred inventions had opened up a new field of labor for machinists. Heebner & Sons' mechanics repaired a boiler for a locomobile, owned by a physician of Perkasio, Pa. The locomobile differed from other automobiles in that it was propelled by steam instead of electricity or gasoline. The boiler referred to was made on the same principle as all steam boilers, but was fitted with copper tubes about a half inch in diameter. Although the boiler was quite small, it was capable of carrying thirty pounds of steam. There is a photograph which shows an automobile which was designed and built by Nathaniel Metz in the Heebner shops. Mr. Metz received a patent for his internal combustion engine in 1910. The patent was filed on September 13, 1906 and it took four years to receive it. He assigned one half of his rights, title and interest to William D. Heebner, owner of Heebner & Sons.

Since January 1, 1900, Heebner's had made shipments to Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Tasmania, Argentina and other foreign countries. The machines were transported through large New York and San Francisco jobbing houses. The firm at this time, introduced "Roller Bearings" to their horse powers. This was the leading, but not the only improvement in "99" to their powers. The firm was also doing a large business in gasoline engines, selling the Webster and the Oles.

In July of 1900, William D. Heebner had a thirty-seven by thirty-six foot, one storey addition built to his foundry. For some years, the foundry had been too small for the amount of work done. C.F. Cresson did the carpentry work and Boorse & Abendschein did the mason and brick work. When the extension to the foundry was completed, Mr. Heebner ordered a new brick pattern house to be erected close to the foundry measuring twenty feet by thirty feet.

Heebner's received a relic in the horse power line, which was traded in on a new power and was consigned to the second hand counter. On the panel of the old machine was painted the following inscription: "No. 58 Made by Solomon W. Steyer, Douglas Township, 1864."

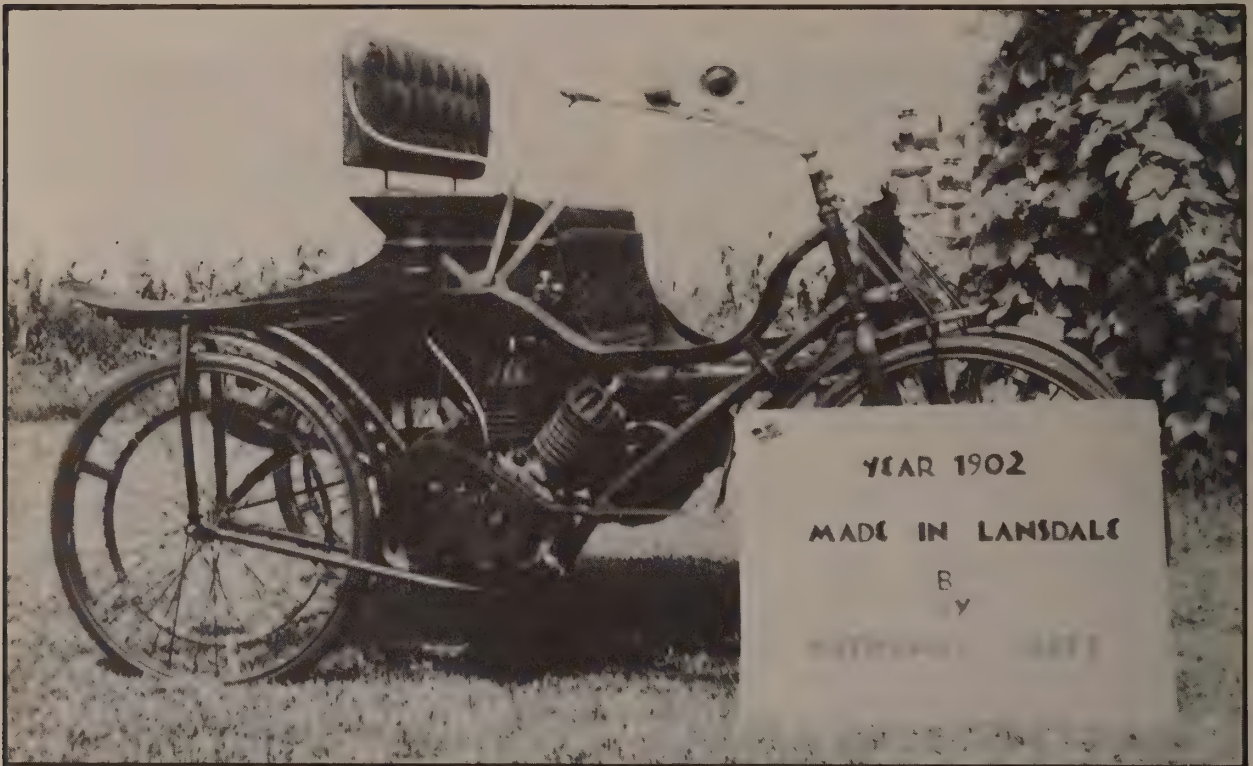
The firm installed a steam heating plant in the Broadway House, under the supervision of J.B. Debarthe, with radiators in every room in the house. A new floor had been placed in the barroom as well as new and up-to-date bar furnishings. Adam Scheidt Brewing Company of Norristown had just purchased the property, operated by the genial proprietor, Harry Krause.

The firm also manufactured Jenkin's map rollers for the Pittsburgh Andrew Carnegie Library, for the Spreckles sugar refinery plant in San Francisco and for the Supreme Court Building in Boston. In addition, the firm installed a gasoline engine in the printing office of the *Hatfield Times*, located in Hatfield, Pa., which was ordered by Mr. Addison, its editor. They also erected 700 feet of iron fence around the Sellersville Cemetery and enclosed the Ridge Valley Church Property with 400 feet of fence.

In September, 1901, Charles Jenkins invented a corn planter that would drop corn in hills or drill it together with fertilizer to the liking of its operator. The machine was certainly an ingenious one. Jenkins guaranteed that his machine, which worked automatically, would drop the corn straight both ways and that its operator would need no preparatory marking of the ground. Heebner & Sons made plans to manufacture this implement for Mr. Jenkins.

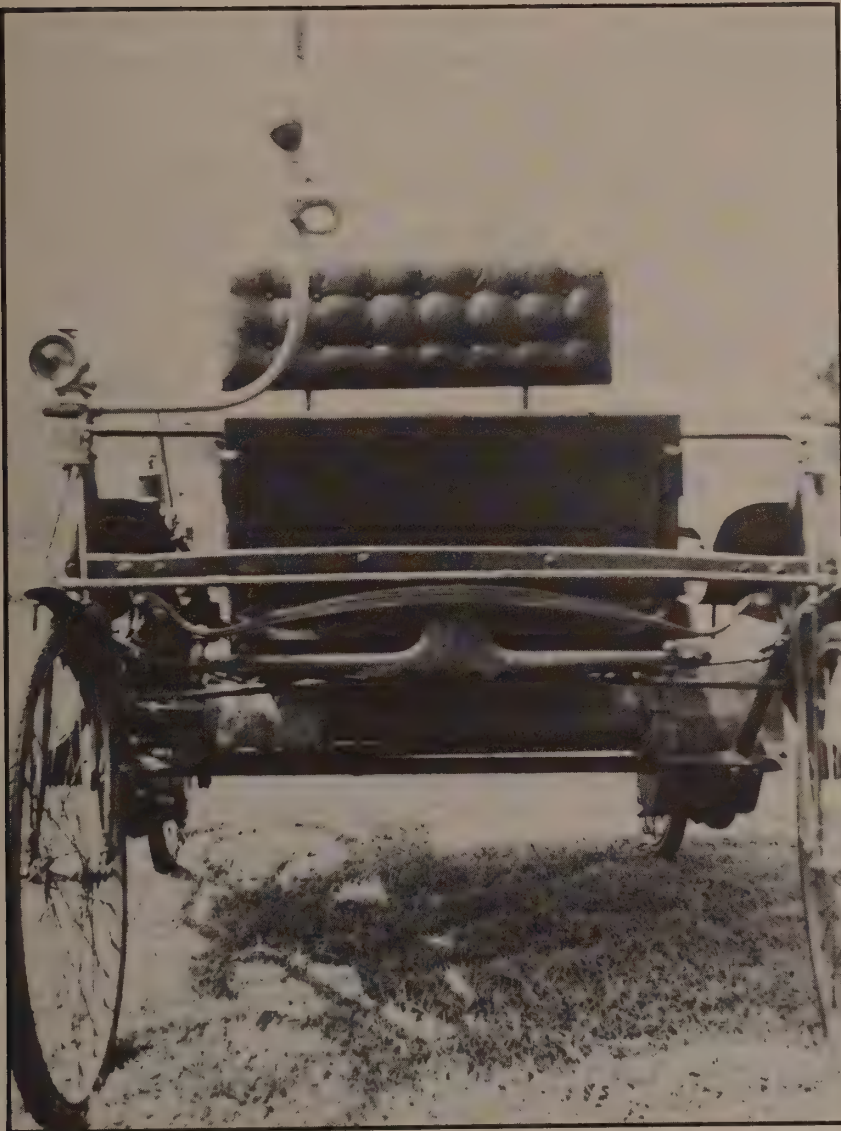
The agricultural works were making a great business of peanut harvesting machines, most of which were shipped to Virginia, North Carolina and other peanut growing districts in the south. The

*Automobile Built by
Nathaniel Metz in
1902*



machines were unique in construction and took the nuts from the vine very rapidly. The firm received orders for large numbers of horsepowers and threshers from South America in 1901.

Chalkley Jarrett, an employee for twenty years and a maker of treadpowers at the agricultural works had in years with the firm made 1611 horse powers. Mr. Chalkley Jarrett estimated that if all were strung out in a row, they would extend a distance of three miles. In the construction of these, 93,439 lag wheels were used.



*Automobile Built by
Nathaniel Metz in
1902*

In 1901 Isaac D. Vanfossen and Joseph Dettra, veteran citizens of Lansdale, attracted the attention of the public with the thump, thump, thump of flails swinging in perfect time in a demonstration in the rear of Mr. Vanfossen's barn. For their threshing floor they used the brick pavement where the rye was spread out, head to head, and the grain yielded up its native pod with every stroke of the flail. While threshing by this means was quite common a half, or even a quarter century earlier, the sight was now an unusual one at the turn of the twentieth century. The advent of modern machinery such as the Heebner Thresher and Cleaner, made it a tedious and an unprofitable way of threshing, except where rye straw was needed for binding of the corn fodder. For that purpose, flail-threshed straw, which was made soft and pliable by hammering on it, was considered the only proper binding material. It, however, had been very largely displaced by tar rope and in most barns the flail was long since relegated to the past.

Time had not only changed the method of threshing, but also the compensation. Mr. Dettra and Mr. Vanfossen stated that when they were young men, the wage for threshing with the flail was from 45 to 50 cents a day, the higher price being considered exceedingly generous. Both of them had flailed many a day for 45 cents and were content with their lot, even though grain was higher then than in the present year.

From the time the Heebners started their agricultural firm, there had never been a time when the supply exceeded the demand. It was always the policy of the firm to have its output in every department below, rather than above what was required. This enabled the firm to select its customers and accept only those of known probity, thus making the matter of collections an easy task. Every year since the establishment of the industry, it had known a healthy and satisfactory growth. The firm's business-like methods and known adherence to fair dealing, combined with the excellence of its machines, enabled it to retain old customers and make new friends at home and abroad. Every year improvements had been made adding to the plant which enabled its owner to add to the perfection and efficiency of its products--the aim being constantly to have every machine thoroughly up to date and its every part so constructed and adjusted as to secure the greatest possible strength and usefulness. The firm's home business was large but not more profitable than its foreign trade. Its specialties were all leaders in the particular classes to which they belonged. Again and again they had won the first prize in competition at the world's fairs in Europe and America. The proprietor, William D. Heebner, not much more than fifty years of age in

1902, had seen the business increase with every passing year, its every department so thoroughly organized and so well managed that the operation of the plant was entirely unaffected by his presence or absence. He chose competent persons to take charge of every mechanical and business detail, and there was no break in the running of the great enterprise which the plant had become. Day in and day out the work moved steadily on, year after year, the management of the business knowing in advance just what it might expect in the way of orders, having no fear that the season's output would not exceed the demand from their customers and agents in all parts of the world.

Not only were the machines, which were 'turned out at the plant, the inventions of the firm, being steadily improved and delivered year to year, but the devices used in their construction were also the product of its skill and genius. Many of these devices worked automatically, saving labor of many employees and insuring a perfection of detail and an exactness of adjustment that would necessarily be expected in any product of hand labor. The name Heebner was on machinery on every farm in the area and it was everywhere conjoined with strength and adaptability to the daily needs of the agriculturist.

On March 12, 1902, the foundry of the Heebner works was shut down to make repairs to the cupola. The preceding week, the men organized a branch of the Iron Workers' Union in the shop and took advantage of the shutdown to demand an increase in wages and shorter hours. Their demands were timework for all hands and \$2.50 a day; the pouring off was to be done early enough to allow all hands to quit at six o'clock. The last request was readily granted but the other demands were refused by the firm in a letter which was sent to each moulder making the demands. The letter contained the following information:

Your request, courteously made at the conference held in the office of the works for an advance in wages has had the most careful attention. We have had considerable correspondence and have held conferences with parties for whom we are doing work outside our own, and are compelled to say that it will be impossible to get better prices for the work in hand, or contracts to be made in the near future, and notwithstanding that it is now costing us more money for iron and coke, it is impossible to get an advance in the prices paid for the castings because other foundries are willing and ready to accept the work.

One reason we have been able to hold the work and some of it at better prices than it could be had elsewhere is because our mixture of irons has been satisfactory to the parties who machine the castings; the iron being soft and easy on the machine tools, and at the same time strong and flexible. Another reason given is that we have been prompt and attentive to orders.

As the matter stands, we are obliged to either continue the present wage scale or to discontinue the outside work and to discontinue the outside work will make it necessary to dispose with services of more than three-fourths of the moulders now employed, and some of the other help about the foundry. This will be unsatisfactory to us for the reason that we have had some pride in being able to employ so many hands on our foundry; but from a financial standpoint, because of the present unsatisfactory prices, the higher cost of materials, and because urgent orders from outside have very often placed us at a disadvantage, in that our own work has been delayed, it will not be a very serious disappointment. We have, very often, in the past few months, discussed the advisability of declining to accept any orders from the outside and only do our own work.

There are times when it is difficult to secure orders from the outside so as to have the work come in regularly. Sometimes we have more than we can conveniently do and at other times have been obliged to work far ahead on our own castings so as to keep all employed; it being a very desire on the part of Mr. Heebner to always keep his employees steadily employed, even though it would be to his pecuniary advantage to occasionally dispense with the services of employees for a few days or weeks. Orders from outside parties did not come in as fast as were needed for so large a force of moulders in November and December, 1901, but in those months all had steady employment, notwithstanding that we accumulated a stock of our own castings far in excess of our needs, amounting at the time stock was taken, January 1st, to a total of 311,978 pounds.

At the conference held Friday evening, we thought it advisable to say to you that it would be impossible to make any changes in the wage scale unless we could arrange for each moulder to do piece work. This does not seem to meet with your approval and would likely result in contention and difficulties when prices are to be set or adjusted, and when the castings are lost and we cannot see how it will be possible in a foundry doing such work as we are doing to manage the work or the wage scales differently from what we have been doing.

We are under the necessity of either completing the work on orders now in hand or to return the patterns. We will leave the decision as to what shall be done in this matter to you, but we must have your decision by nine o'clock a.m., Tuesday, March 11. We would give you longer time for decision but we are not able to withhold answers to correspondence now in our office for a longer time. We trust you will consider carefully. The work once lost will never be returned to us and we may never again have occasion to employ so many people in our foundry as we have been doing during the past two years.

Thanking you for the interest you have always taken in your work and the pleasant relations always existing during the time you have been in our employ, and assuring you that we will always have the kindest

interest in your future welfare, whether employed with us or elsewhere,
We remain. Yours very truly, Heebner & Sons, by John J. Ridington,
Supt.

Mr. Ridington went on to state that for the past twenty-five years, no moulder in the foundry had received less than \$2.00 per day and from that on up according to his skill in the work.

After being shut down a week, the foundry was put into blast, but not with its full quota of men. The firm invited any or all of the old employees to return to work at any time. For years the union men had been employed in this foundry and no questions were asked in regard to the order in which employees had affiliated themselves with the union. The firm stated it was not militant against them if they wished to return to work. Many of the men who made the demands on the firm obtained work in the city of Philadelphia or at the Quakertown or Royersford foundries. With the firm, however, it was simply a question of deciding the wage rate to be paid in its plant.

During these problem times at the foundry, the firm was in the process of shipping twenty-five complete threshing outfits on a long journey bound for Siberia. Six flat cars were loaded to capacity with the consignment, the order being the largest single shipment made from the works for many years.

William D. Heebner announced his candidacy for State Senator of Pennsylvania in 1902. He was endorsed by a joint meeting of the Republican workers of the wards in Lansdale: the Towamensin and Lower Gwynedd Republican workers and the Skippack-Worcester Republican workers.

In November, 1902, William purchased a fine Oldsmobile. The machine was said to be the finest roadster made, and Mr. Heebner was so well pleased with it, he decided to secure the local sales agency for the automobile. He set aside part of his warehouse to display this new automobile and in short notice had many orders to fill for the Lansdale residents. This was the beginning of Heebner's new venture, Heebner Motors, owned by Heebner & Sons.

The following properties were recorded by the Lansdale Water Company in 1902 as being owned by William D. Heebner and Heebner & Sons: his home at 25 South Broad Street, Lansdale, 7 Montgomery Ave., the agricultural works on Broad Street, the Foundry on Chestnut Street, the *Republican* newspaper printing office on Broad Street, 5 Green Street, 11 east 3rd Street, the chicken yard on Jenkins Avenue, the auto garage on Broad Street, 45-47 Green Street, 31 Fourth Street, 46 Montgomery Avenue, the railroad building and the Eagle Block. Mr. Heebner was a large investor in real



*Ad for Oldsmobile
Sold at Heebners'*

estate and acquired many other properties during his lifetime.

In 1902, as well, the agricultural works started to sell the Planter Jr., No. 4, a combined hill and drill seeder, with wheel hoe, cultivator and plow. This machine sowed all kinds of garden seed in hills or drills, hoed, cultivated, plowed, threw dirt to or from the rows and was a weed exterminator of the highest order. It was considered the best implement in the world for the market gardener. The hopper was large enough to hold two quarts of seed and dropped them in hills 4, 6, 8, 12 or 24 inches apart. It covered seed the right depth and rolled down the soil. The flow was instantly stopped by an automatic device. This machine was but one of fifty-two Planter Jr. tools on the market.

In October, 1904, the sand house at the Heebner foundry caught fire and was totally destroyed. The Fairmount Fire Company, however, promptly responded to the alarm and by heroic work, together with the assistance of the bucket brigade, successfully confined the flames. The burning building abutted the main foundry building and it was certain that the timely arrival of the fireman saved Heebner a much greater loss since the wind was blowing at a lively rate, carrying the flames in the direction of the building. Chemicals

were used first, and this checked the flames until the hose to the fire plug could be attached. The origin of the fire was a mystery, but it was presumed that it started from a spark thrown by a locomotive on the North Penn Railroad lines.

In 1904 the firm designed a blower which it attached to its fodder cutters to convey fodder into bins or silos. The machine was a perfect success and was demonstrated in a trial given on the farm of Frank Landis of Worcester township. The cut silage was lifted thirty-five feet to the top of the silo by means of a pipe. The work was done with ease and at no time did the pipe choke. This plan of elevating the material was much superior to the carriers heretofore in use on the farm.

Josiah D. Heebner, of the Worcester Machine Shop and brother of William D. Heebner, died July 31, 1909 at sixty-five years and eleven days of age. For many years he had conducted the old Heebner machine shop in Worcester township built by his father, David S. Heebner. Starting at the age of fifteen, he showed an inclination for mechanics and was permitted to learn that trade. During all of his life he followed that trade, conducting what was known as the Heebner Machine Shop, near the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church. He was engaged actively at this business until his death. He was also an inventor and his greatest success in that line was the invention of the level tread and the governor on the first Heebner horsepower. He sold the patent to Heebner & Sons, who made it famous worldwide. He also invented a low down grain binder which was popularized by his brothers in Lansdale. Though a man of much activity in business, he was of a retiring disposition and never sought or held any public office. For many years he was chorister of the Worcester Schwenkfelder Church.

Heebner & Sons decided to build an addition to their works in 1909 because of an increase in business. The addition was three stories high, 18 feet x 60 feet, and made of brick. The former warehouse at the corner of Broad and Jenkins Avenue was furnished with a concrete floor to be used for their new automobile garage.

In their new garage, the firm received orders for a carload of the popular Ford automobiles for delivery to purchasers in the Lansdale area. Mr. Heebner reported a delivery of Ford touring cars to Dr. A.C. Herman, W. Fred Brunner and A. H. Landis of Lansdale; Ford Roadsters to Dr. Alfred E. Fretz, of Sellersville, Pa., and H.S. Souder, of Souderton, Pa.; a Regal 30 Touring car to Christopher Huber of Glenside, Pa.; a Regal 30 Roadster to Lawrence Freeman of Sellersville, Pa., and the firm delivered a Regal 40 Seven passenger to J.B. Felver of Lansdale.

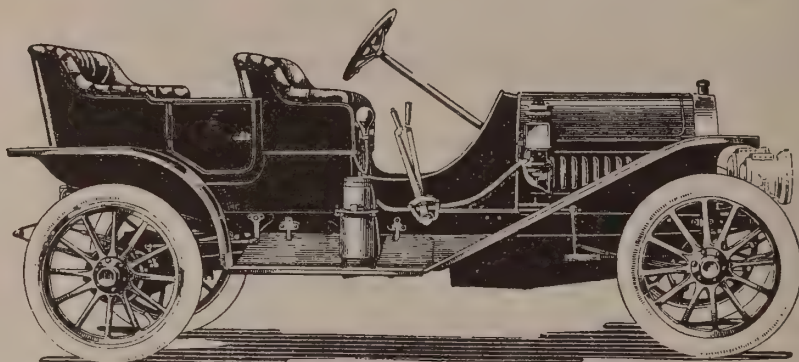
The Roadster cost \$950. The price included magneto, full set of lamps, tools, top, windshield and speedometer. The Model T was the lightest touring car built and was manufactured of Vavadium steel. The T was now in its third year on the market and was developed to the highest degree of efficiency. No car could be perfected in a single season.

*Ad for Ford
Automobile Sold at
Heebners'*

THE NORTH WALES RECORD

For Business or Pleasure—The Motor Car.

R
E
G
A
L
"30"



R
E
G
A
L
"30"

\$900.00 TO \$2000.00

Ford and Regal "30"

Roadsters—Touring Cars—Town Cars

Buying a motor car is a very easy matter; buying the right one, the best for the money, is not so easy. We have chosen these cars from the hundreds of makes after careful and thorough investigation, and our personal tests. And we had first choice, remember that. All we ask is that you will give our cars careful consideration and an honest chance in a practical working demonstration.

Storage
Supplies
Repairing
Accessories
Cars to Hire
Second Hand Cars
BELL PHONE 80

Lansdale Garage

Repair Car Always Ready

HEEBNER & SONS, Proprietors

Agreements with International Harvester

On November 15, 1910, a grain thresher contract between Heebner & Sons and International Harvester Company of America, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, was signed in Lansdale, at the offices of the agricultural works, by William D. Heebner, of Heebner & Sons and R.C. Haskins, President of International Harvester Co. In this contract Heebner's agreed to sell International Harvester its full line of grain threshers, attachments and repairs which were listed in the most recent Heebner catalogue. This contract gave International Harvester exclusive sale for these threshers in the states of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Oklahoma, New Jersey and the counties of Carbon, Monroe, Philadelphia, Delaware and Chester in the state of Pennsylvania, with the privilege of selling the Heebner machines throughout the entire United States of America.

Heebner's agreed to furnish International Harvester with, in addition to their regular line, a full new line of grain threshers to be known as the Sterling which would be marketed exclusively by International Harvester throughout the world. These machines, repairs and attachments would be in every way identical with the Heebner regular line with the following exceptions: The name Heebner & Sons would not appear on the threshers, attachments or repairs. The new casting on the sides of the machines was exchanged to read: "Made for International Harvester Company of America (Incorporated), Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A."

Transfers were put on each machine as directed and furnished by International Harvester. The painting and striping was changed in appearance, with the quality of painting remaining equal to the painting on the regular line of Heebner machines.

The Heebner No. 1 grain thresher was changed to No. 30, the No. 2 machine was changed to No. 26 and the No. 3 machine to No. 21, when ordered under the name of the Sterling brand.

Heebner's agreed not to manufacture any special line of grain threshers for any other party during the life of the contract, agreeing further not to use the name Sterling at any future time, either for themselves or for other parties on grain threshers.

Heebner's agreed to furnish, during the year of 1911, shipping instructions for 700 threshers, 500 of the special combination trucks and 100 regular trucks. The grain threshers were to be of such assortment as International Harvester would specify. Heebner's also agreed to furnish, during the same period, "any additional number to

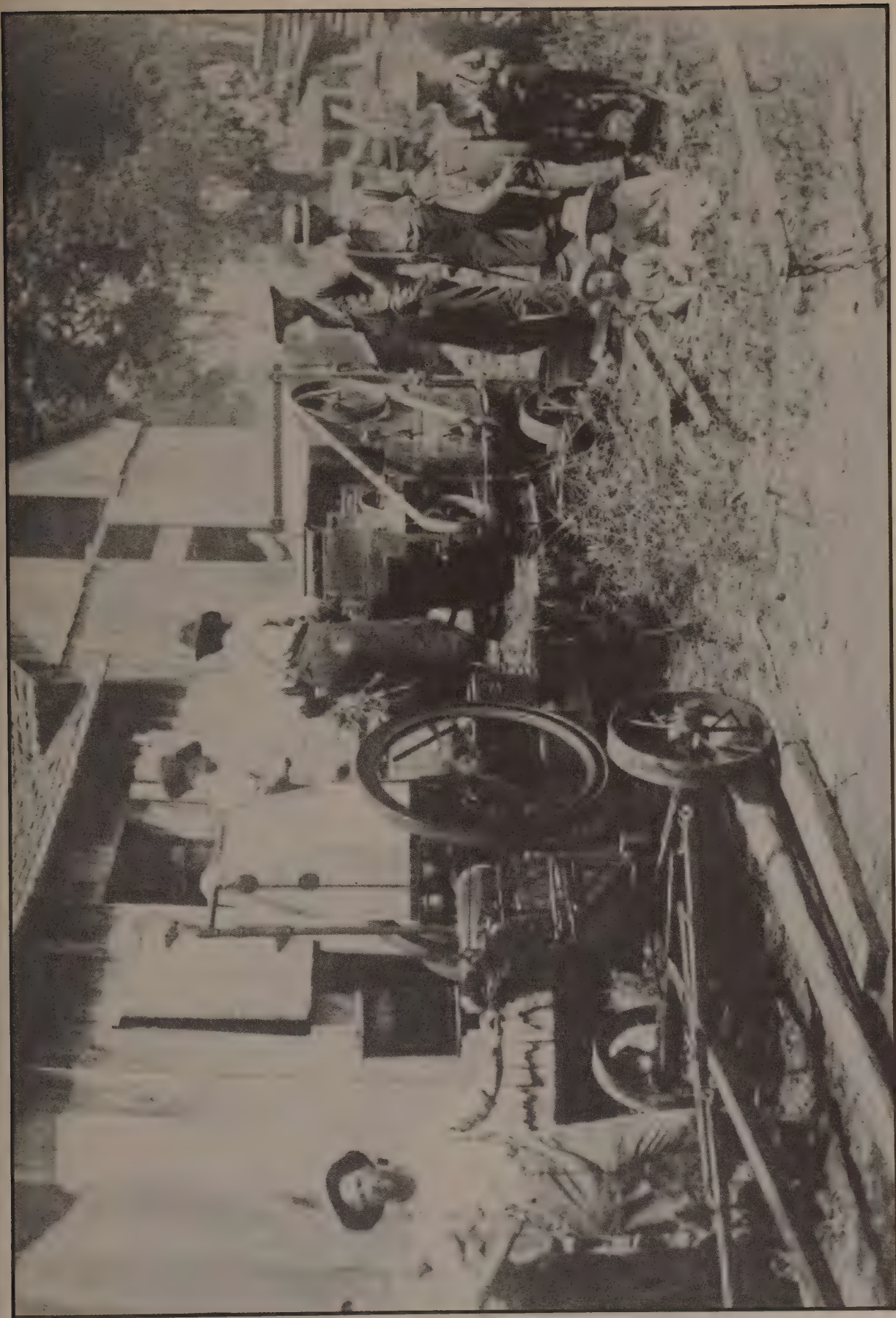
the extent of its ability in excess of the above specified number, threshers and trucks of such assortment as International Harvester may specify, and agreed to make every reasonable effort to furnish the goods in time for the season's requirements in the different territories" in which they were to be shipped. This agreement became effective on November 15, 1910 and extended to December 31, 1913.

International Harvester was seeking a small thresher to add to its line of larger machines, which it could sell to the small farmers. The Heebner machine, the Pennsylvania, was the most successful and well-known thresher in the world for sixty-nine years and met the need. The Sterling thresher was an exact copy of the Heebner machine and was chiefly used for the small farm. It filled International's demand for a light, durable, easily transported thresher with a good capacity, and required very little help to operate. The Sterling would thresh and clean such grains and seeds as wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, kaffir corn, sorghum, flax, beans, cow peas, peanuts, clover seed and grass seed.

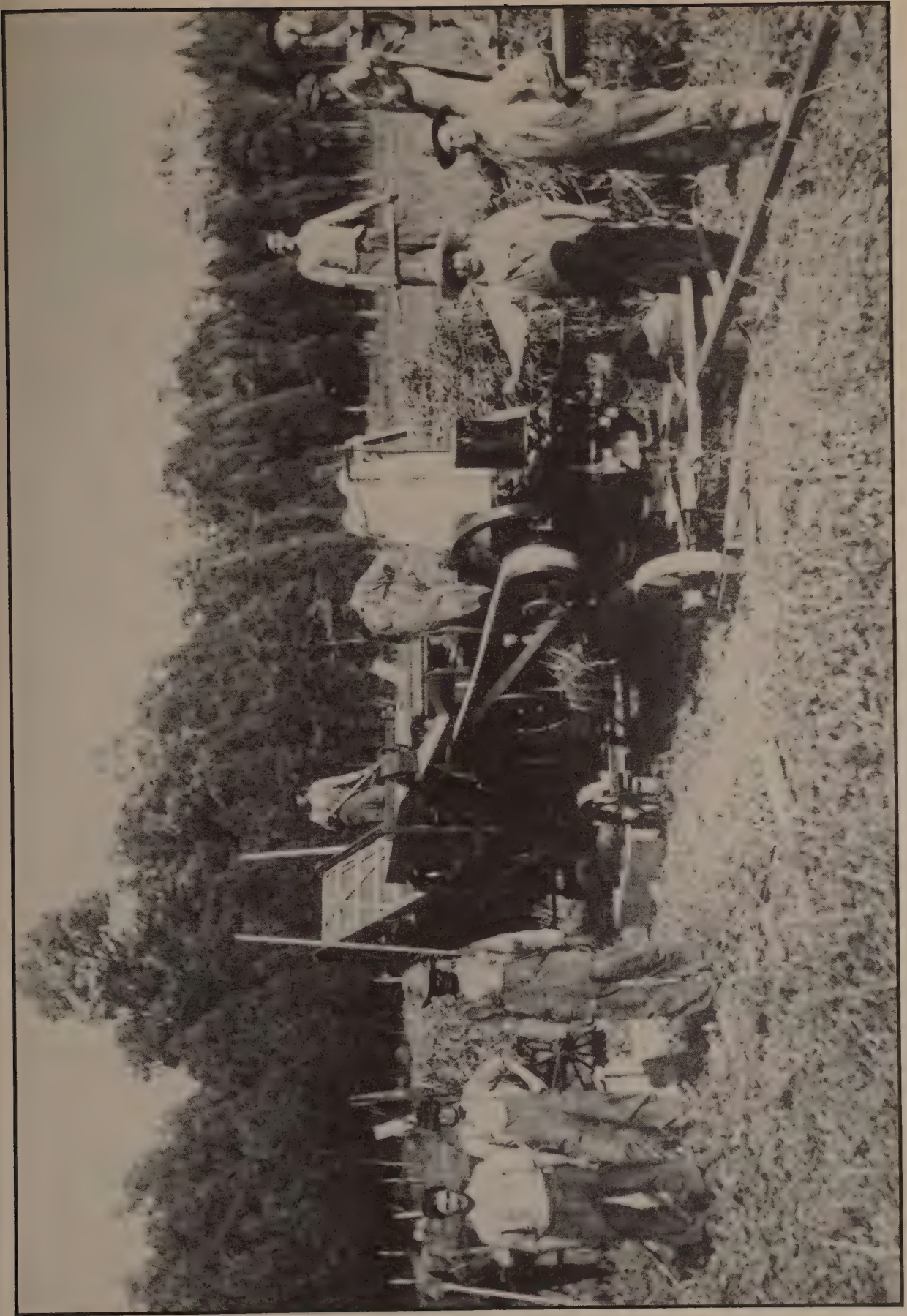
In the past few years, the demand for the Heebner machine had declined on the local level and with International Harvester Company growing rapidly, looking for new products to market, and with better methods of advertising these threshers, the contract seemed to be an advantage for both parties. It guaranteed that the Heebner shops would remain active for the next three years, producing threshers on request of International Harvester while also manufacturing their other lines of machinery, such as fodder cutters, straw cutters, etc. The contract was exclusively for the rights to the Pennsylvania and Little Giant threshing machines.

The Sterling machines were built in the Heebner shops, mounted on a metal wheel truck and shipped to the warehouses of International Harvester, where a four or six horsepower gasoline engine was also mounted on the cart to complete the threshing outfit. The Sterling could also be purchased unmounted for use on barn floors or mounted on an individual truck used for the thresher only.

During the three years of the contract, Heebner & Sons continued to receive orders for their own thresher from farmers across the country. Upon receiving these orders, the firm would refer its customers to an International Harvester dealer located nearest to the customer and thank them for their business in the past years. In a letter, dated May 3, 1912, Heebner & Sons referred a customer to International Harvester to purchase one of Heebner's' threshing machines. The contents of the letter to John Draper, Esq., of Ballston Lake, N.Y., is as follows:



The International Thresher, the "Sterling," built by Heebners'



The International Thresher, the "Sterling," built by Heebners'

Dear Sirs: We have your card of the first inst., and are please to mail you our latest thresher catalogue under seperate cover, which same we hope will find favor with you. We make very fine goods in this line and for prices and terms on same we refer you to the International Harvester Co., located at Albany, N.Y., who are distributing our thresher in your section. Hoping to have your order through their offices, we are yours truly.—Heebner & Sons.

At the conclusion of the contract in 1913, Heebner & Sons resumed the manufacture and sales of their own threshers, the Pennsylvania and the Little Giant, and also continued to produce the Sterling machine for International Harvester as ordered. Heebner & Sons operated as a branch house of International for this thresher from 1910 to 1923.

In a letter to the sales departments of International Harvester dealers throughout the country, on March 21, 1913, the firm commented that the primary purpose for handling the small Sterling thresher was to increase the sale of its Gasoline 4 to 6 horsepower engines. It was pointed out that the sale of this machine was not intended, in any way, to conflict with International's larger thresher lines on the market at the time and sold by their agents. The firm stated that it was not particularly desirous of selling this Sterling thresher alone without the gasoline engine, but thought the line was an excellent one to further the sale of engines for the reason that it had proved a very good thresher and had given excellent satisfaction when used within the limits of its capacity.

All orders and correspondence regarding the Sterling thresher in combination or singly were sent to the Chicago office and not to the manufacturer, Heebner & Sons.

Of the three sizes made by the Heebner works; the best seller was the No. 21. This size required a special truck called the Combination Truck. The truck was arranged so that the International 4 to 6 horsepower engine could be mounted thereon, the necessary holes having been bored for either size engine to be mounted at will.

For the season of 1914, the prices of the Sterling threshers and attachments were as follows:

- No.21 x 28 without truck, \$105.00
- No.21 x 33 without truck, \$130.00
- No.26 x 33 without truck, \$150.00
- No.30 x 37 without truck, \$170.00
- No.21 x 28 mounted on regular truck, \$140.00
- No.21 x 33 mounted on regular truck, \$165.00
- No.26 x 33 mounted on regular truck, \$185.00

No.30 x 37 mounted on regular truck, \$205.00
 No.21 x 28 mounted on combination truck, \$150.00
 No.21 x 33 mounted on combination truck, \$175.00
 No.26 x 33 mounted on combination truck, \$205.00
 No.30 x 37 mounted on combination truck, \$225.00
 combination truck for Nos.21 x 26, 21 x 33, for 4 or 6 horsepower engine, as extra, \$45.00
 Combination truck for Nos.26 x 33, 30 x 37, for 6 or 8 horsepower Engine, as extra, \$55.00
 Regular truck for No.30 x 37, metal wheels and axles, as extra, \$35.00
 Regular truck for No.26 or 21, metal wheels and axles, as extra, \$35.00
 Brake for any above trucks, \$5.50
 14ft. folding straw stacker for No.21 Sterling 25.00
 16ft. folding straw stacker for No.30 and No.26, \$30.00
 Long grain elevator, to elevate grain to wagon bed, \$25.00
 Tailings elevators for Nos.30, 26 and 21, \$15.00
 Tailings elevator for peanut picker, \$12.00
 Bagger Attached double chute for Nos.30, 26 and 21, \$12.00
 Pea and bean attachment for No.21 and 21 1/2, \$15.00
 Pea and bean attachment for No.26 Sterling, \$20.00
 Pea and bean attachment for No.30 Sterling, \$25.00
 Peanut attachment for No.21 and No.21 1/2, \$15.00
 Peanut attachment for No.26, \$20.00
 Peanut attachment for No.30, \$25.00
 Grain attachment for peanut picker, No.21 and 21 1/2, \$15.00
 Grain attachment for peanut picker No.26, \$15.00
 Grain attachment for peanut picker No.30, \$15.00
 Half-bushel Measure, \$00.65

The goods were all priced F.O.B., Lansdale, Pa., and the price did not include the gasoline engine.

Heebner's continued to supply the Sterling machine until April 20, 1923, when International Harvester ordered all its dealers to reduce the price of all items connected with the Sterling line of threshers and sell all machines and parts held in stock at its warehouses. The company ordered the Sterling thresher to be discontinued and removed from its branch houses before the annual inventory in the season of 1923.

This was the end of the Heebner-built Sterling thresher which survived on the market for thirteen years. It was also the end for the firm of Heebner & Sons as a manufacturer of agricultural machinery.

On August 14, 1925, William D. Heebner, sole owner of Heebner & Sons' agricultural works, retired from business. He presented, to his children, all personal property, going business and real estate of the firm of Heebner & Sons, consisting of the main factory,

foundry, machine shop, warehouses and other buildings. He hoped the business might be continued by the family. However, on January 4, 1926, Lansdale's oldest manufacturing establishment closed its doors. At this time the works employed thirty-five men.

In 1944 the old building at Main and Broad Streets, a landmark since 1872, was completely dismantled and removed to make room for an automotive service station, owned by Sun Oil Company.

*Heebner and Sons,
1930*

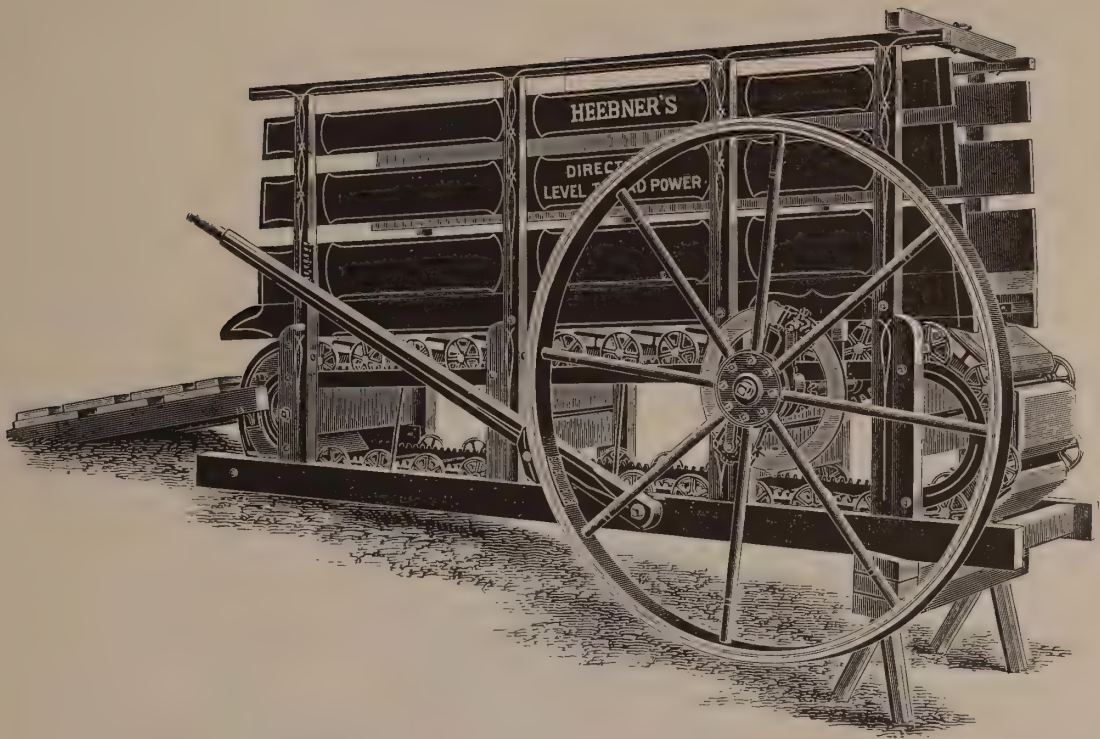




Remains of Heebner and Sons Foundry

PART II
The Heebner Line

Heebners'

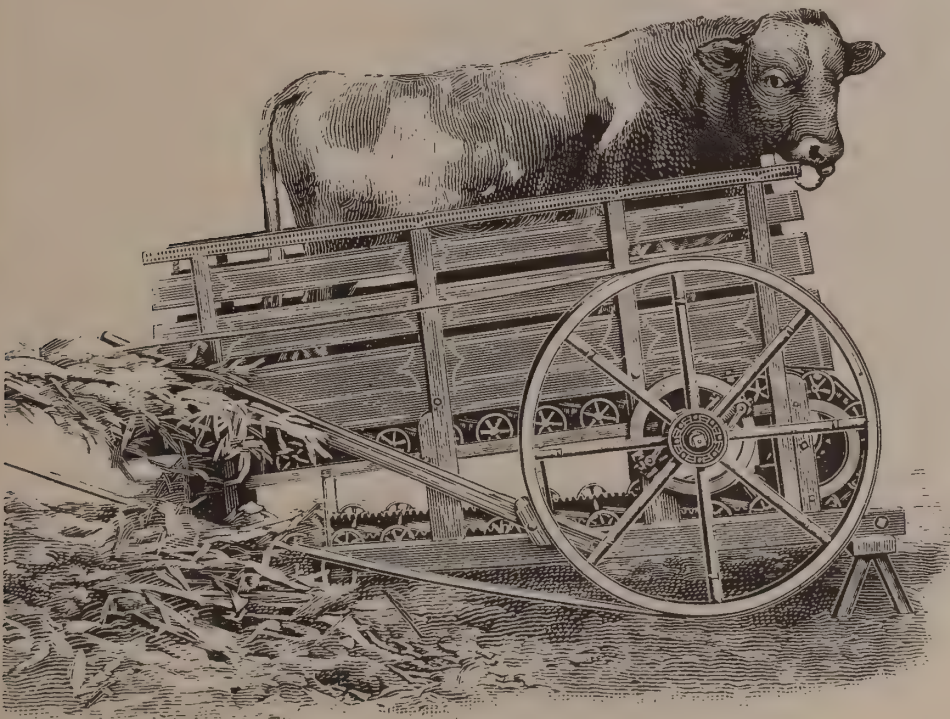


Level Tread Horse Power

The Heebner Level Tread Horse Power

These powers were manufactured in three sizes—for one, two and three horses and in two styles: double and direct-geared.

The level tread plank (or lag) was an improvement made to horse powers that distinguished the Heebner machine from all other horse powers manufactured in the world. The lags were made of rock maple and were 2 1/2 inches thick, dressed on both sides. They were 6 1/2 and 7 1/2 inches wide with the corners taken off in such a manner as to prevent the horses from catching their calks in the joint. They were connected by iron links at each end which were arranged in such a manner that their rear edges were raised 1 1/2 inches, making them level when the power was in position for use. No bolts, screws or rivets were used in the lags. They were attached to the links by tenons on the ends that entered mortices in the links. The lags being level, the horses' feet were always in a natural position and all strain on their feet and legs, consequent when working on other powers, were avoided on the Heebner horse power. It was not necessary for the horse to be shod at all since it could work on this power without shoes and not slip. This advantage the Heebner level tread had over all other powers was that on the other powers the horses' nerves were continually strained. The only power on which oxen were used without shoes was the Heebner power.

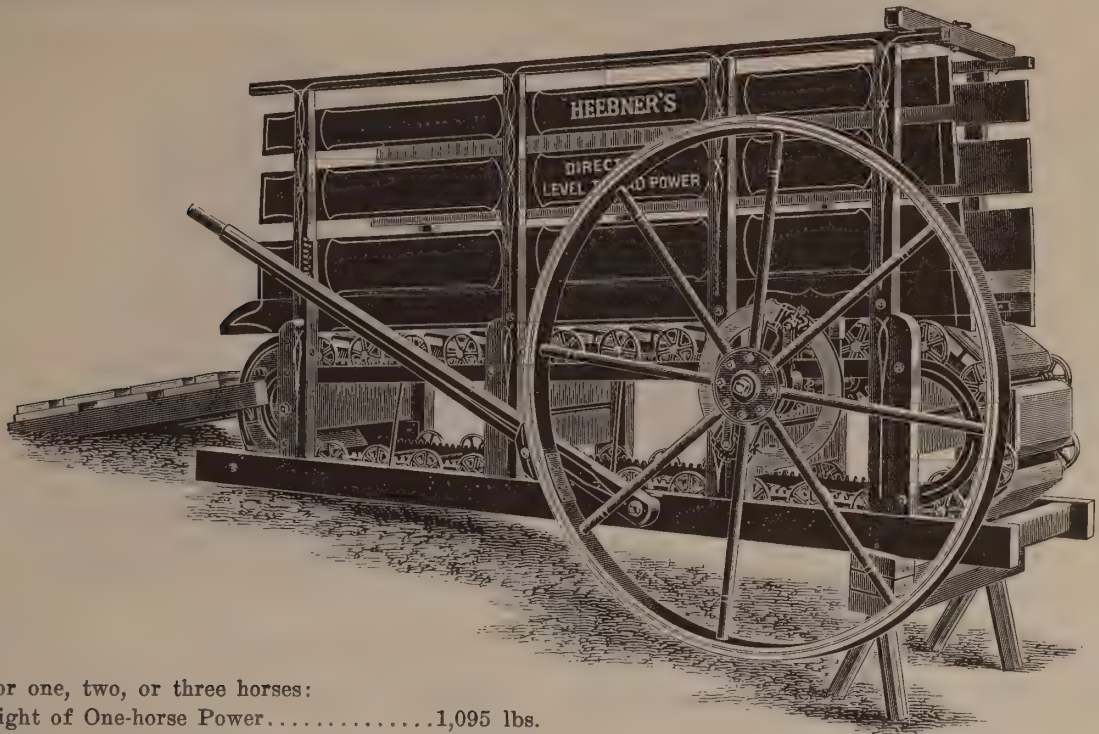


The lag links were connected by means of steel cross-rods, passing under the entire length of the lags, through the ends of the links and extending beyond them far enough to receive the track wheels. These cross-rods were of fine steel, made especially for this purpose, and lasting four times as long as iron. The arrangement of the lags prevented the horse from stepping on and bending the cross-rods, throwing the track wheels out of line and causing great friction and unequal wear in the rods, wheels and tracks. The hubs of the track wheels were not bored through. This prevented the cross rods from wearing at the shoulder and working through the wheels, causing extra friction along the sides. The tracks, which were of solid iron, were constructed in such a manner that all side friction with the track wheels was entirely prevented. The level tread and patent speed regulator made the Heebner power vastly more valuable than any other horse power.

Heebners' Direct Geared Horse Power

The direct-geared level tread power was made strong and durable. The chain link in the direct-geared power had cogs on it and passed over the pinions on each end of the band wheel shaft, by which the band wheel received its motion. The track wheels were 5 1/2 inches in diameter. The power was called direct-geared because any band wheel shaft was geared directly from the links without any extra wheels. This power was recommended for general purposes and was not as heavy-duty as the double-geared machine. The weight of a one horse direct-geared power was 900 pounds, the two-horse weighed 1600 pounds and the three-horse weighed 2300 pounds. The two- and three-horse machines were arranged so that the band wheel could be used on either side; but the one-horse was made only on special order. The band wheel measured 4 feet, 4 inches and an extra size of 4 feet, 8 inches was furnished on special order.

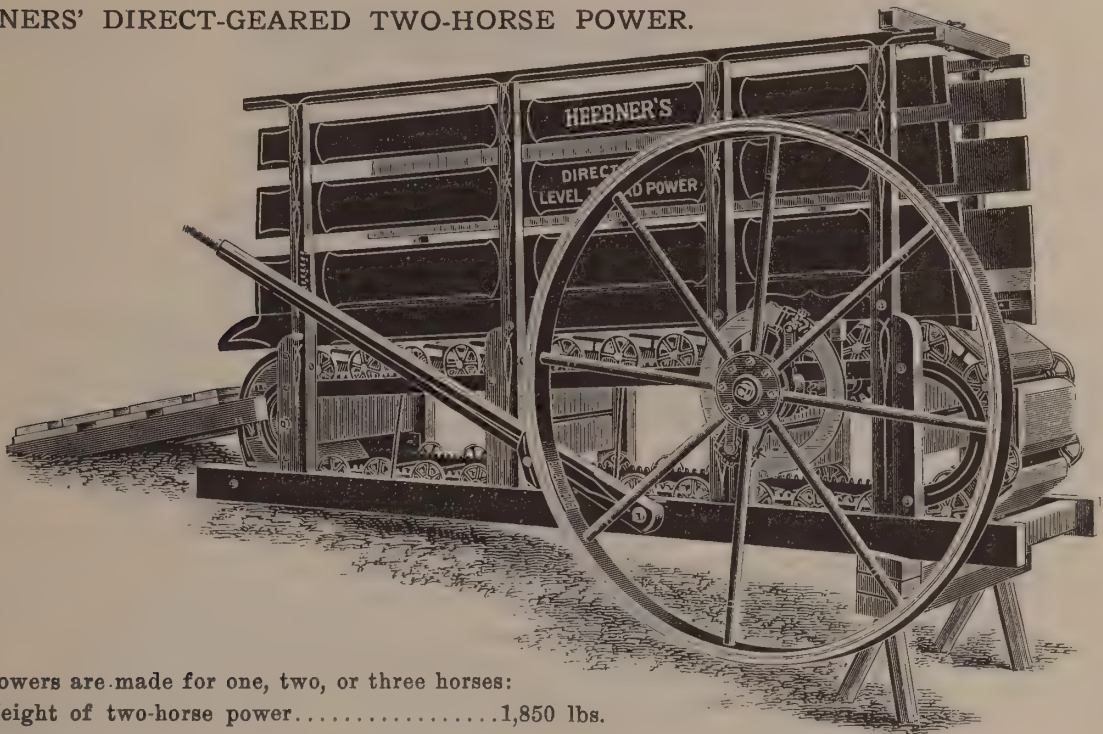
HEEBNERS' DIRECT-GEARED ONE-HORSE POWER.



Made for one, two, or three horses:

Weight of One-horse Power.....1,095 lbs.

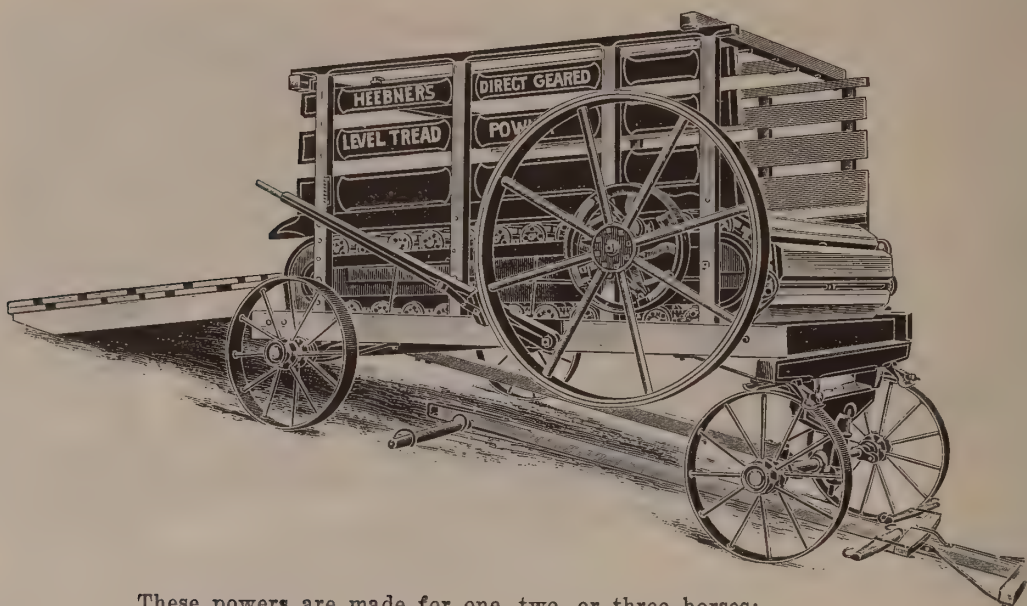
HEEBNERS' DIRECT-GEARED TWO-HORSE POWER.



These powers are made for one, two, or three horses:

Weight of two-horse power.....1,850 lbs.

HEEBNERS' DIRECT-GEARED THREE-HORSE POWER.



These powers are made for one, two, or three horses:

Weight of Three-horse Power.....2,975 lbs.

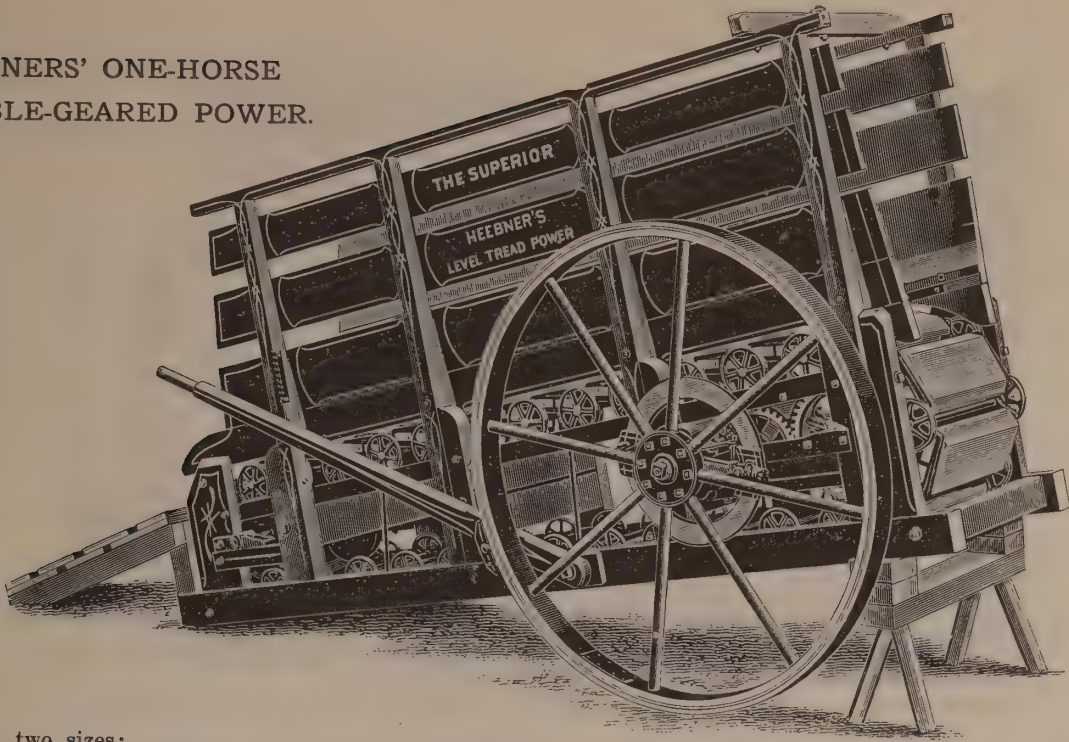
Weight of Truck for Three-horse Power.. 800 lbs.

Heebners' Double Geared Horse Power

The double-geared level tread power was provided with a reel at each end, which carried the endless platform or chain around at the end and allowed the track wheels to leave the track at the ends, giving them an opportunity to exhaust their motion in the direction which they were running when they left one track, so that they were ready to turn in the opposite direction when they reached the other track. By this arrangement no power was lost when the wheel received its motion. The band wheel changed its motion by gearing from the front shaft. In ordinary work, a horse walked at a rate of less than 1 1/2 miles per hour and the power was thus well-adapted for the use of oxen and slow-walking horses. The two horse double-geared powers were geared on both sides, with the shaft extending across the power, making the power run more easily and with less liability to wear. The band wheel could be used on either side of the machine.

The Heebner's also made double-geared powers to run under-shot threshers. These powers did not have the intermediate gear which allowed the band wheel to run in the opposite direction from that in the regular power.

**HEEBNER'S ONE-HORSE
DOUBLE-GEARED POWER.**



Made in two sizes:

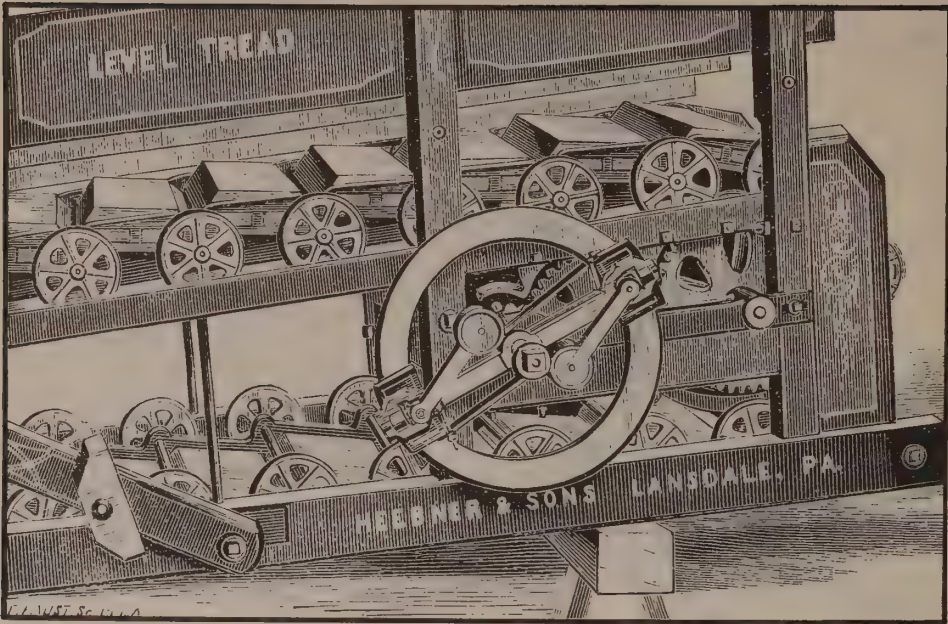
One-horse Power weighs.....1,250 lbs.

Two-horse Power weighs.....2,075

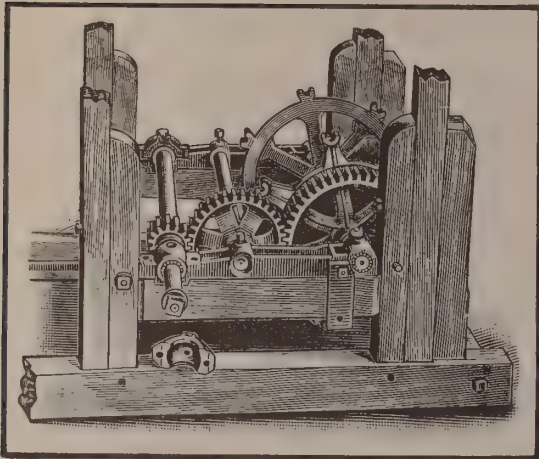
HEEBNER'S TWO-HORSE DOUBLE-GEARED POWER.



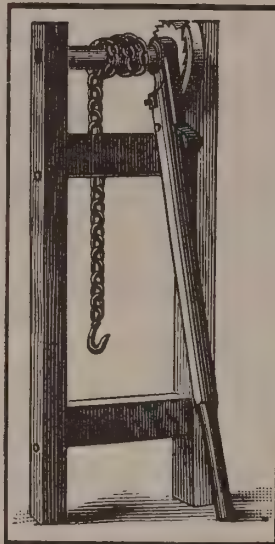
Weight of Power.....2,075 lbs. Weight of Truck.....780 lbs.



The print shown illustrates the side and front of Heebners' level tread double-geared horse power, with band wheel and guard rail removed, to show the new speed regulator, the form of tread and the shape of the lag plank.



The above illustration shows the gear of a one-horse power, the main gear and the reel head being combined. Thus, making it very strong and powerful.



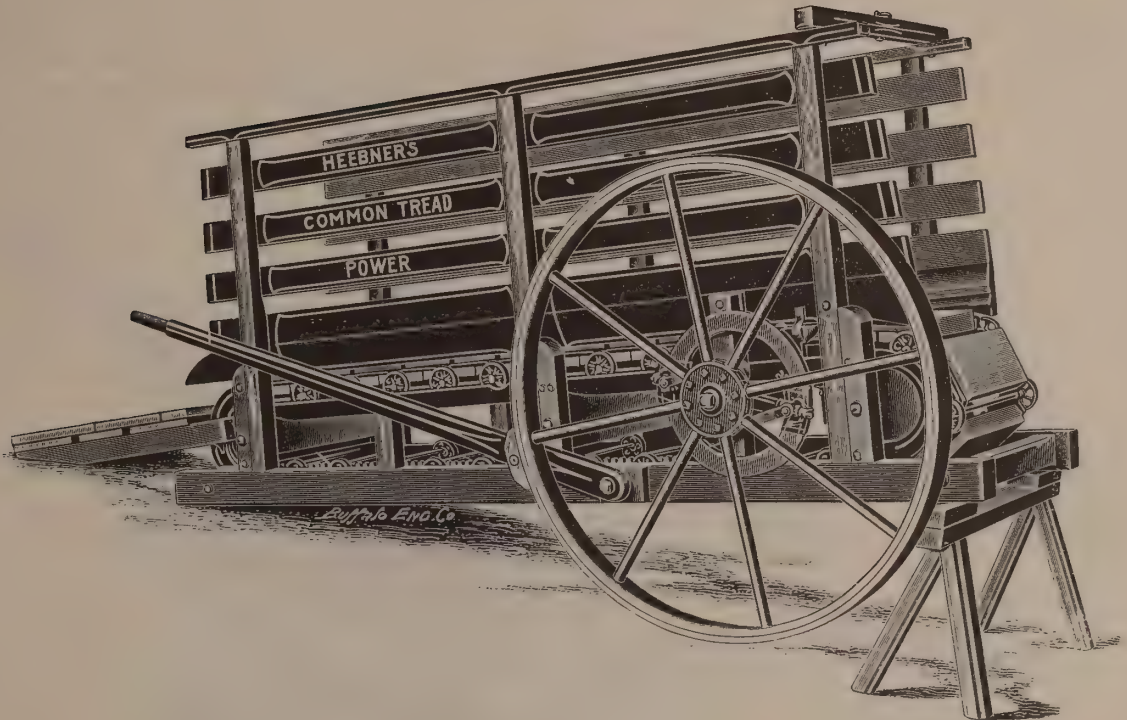
Horse Power Ratchet Lever Jack

The ratchet lever jack saves many a hard lift. It is a very simple and convenient arrangement for raising and lowering horse powers when placing them in position. With the aid of the jack one man can raise and lower, set and level the power with ease. The frame is made of hard wood and the chain of the very best material.

Heebners' Common Tread Horse Power

The common tread power has small track wheels. The lag plank and the chain links are the old style "incline" parts, horses must be rough shod, unless very sure footed. Horses with calks and toes on shoes, or with sharp nails in the shoes, are sure to cut out the tread plank in very little time, making it necessary to renew these parts at frequent intervals, which is an item of expense not had with the level-tread powers, as horses work either with smooth shoes or "bare-footed" on the level tread.

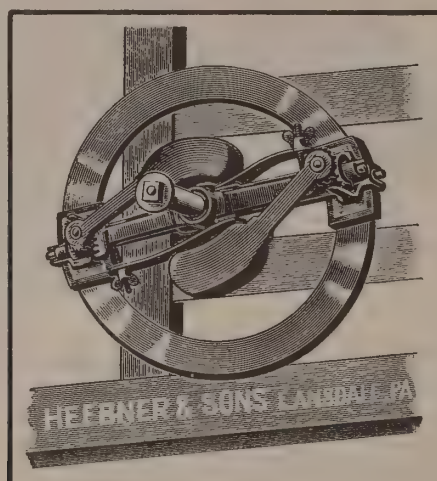
HEEBNERS' COMMON TREAD ONE-HORSE POWER.



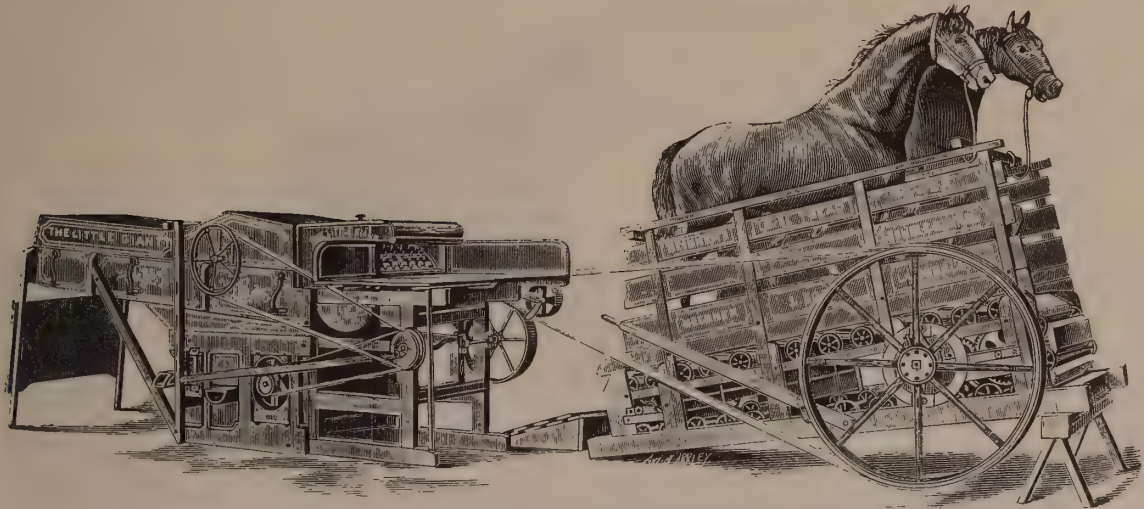
Made in two sizes:

Weight of One-horse Power.....	875 lbs.
Weight of Two-horse Power.....	1,700 lbs.

The Heebner patent speed regulator was a very valuable invention which the firm attached to all its powers. It prevented the speed from accumulating beyond the point at which the regulator was adjusted, and when that point was reached, the power ran on without any further increase of speed. By means of this improvement the power could be used to run any kind of machinery to which it was attached. The regulator consisted of a flat oscillating rim fastened to the frame of the power and a spider, which was placed on the band wheel shaft to the inside of the band wheel. The spider had a weighted lever and a wooden friction block at each end; as the shaft revolved, the spider revolved with it, but the rim remained stationary. The weights were thrown outward by centrifugal force; as they did so, they turned a small cam that operated against the wooden friction block, pressing the weights against the rim, causing a friction which checked the speed. The weights were controlled by springs and the springs were adjusted by a bolt and nut. If the springs were screwed down, the weights would not fly out so readily, which allowed the speed to get up to a higher rate; but if the springs were loosened, the weights would fly out more rapidly and check the speed more quickly. The regulator would not stop the power, but would check the speed when it reached the peak speed at which it was adjusted to run. It would then run on at that rate of speed. The giant value of the regulator was obvious; it prevented the horse from being forced out of the power and injured in case the band was thrown off the band wheel or the band wheel broke. It also avoided the necessity of a man holding the brake to check the speed when the machine which the power was running was not at work. The speed regulator was not attached to the brake or the band wheel.



HEEBNERS' "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.



TWO-HORSE DOUBLE-GEARED (OVERSHOT) LEVEL TREAD POWER AND NO. 2 "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.

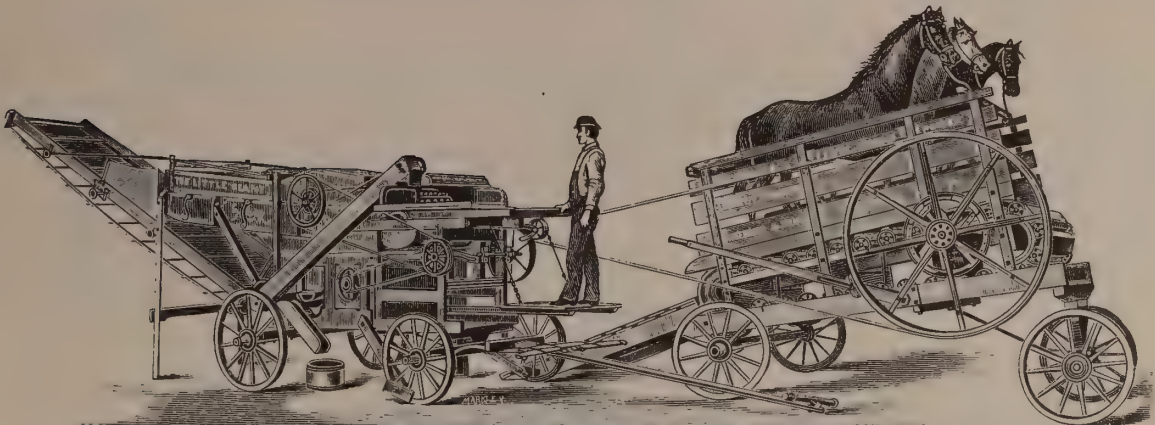
Weights:

Power and Thresher, complete.....3,550 lbs.

Weight of Power.....2,975 lbs.

Weight of Thresher.....1,475 lbs.

HEEBNERS' "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.



THREE-HORSE DIRECT-GEARED LEVEL TREAD POWER AND NO. 1 "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER, WITH TAILINGS ELEVATOR AND STRAW CARRIER, MOUNTED ON TRUCKS.

Weights:

Weight of complete outfit.....6,250 lbs.

Weight of Power, mounted3,600 lbs.

Weight of Power, not mounted2,975 lbs.

Weight of Thresher, mounted2,650 lbs.

Weight of Thresher, not mounted2,100 lbs.

Weight of Stacker, 16 feet280 lbs.

Weight of Tailings Elevator75 lbs.

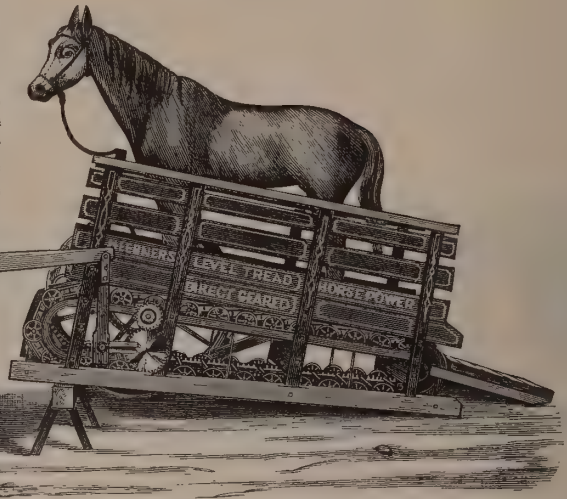
Weight of Bagger75 lbs.

ATTACHMENT FOR PUMPING WATER BY HORSE POWER.

Our level-tread powers are used quite extensively for pumping water for stock, irrigation and for various other purposes.

With the pumping attachment only the gears, shafting and crank are furnished; the long wooden lever must be made after power is set in position, that it may be made the length desired. When rotary pumps are used either a chain gear or pulleys and belting may be had. Those who have suffered the inconvenience occasioned by calms and the lack of power to drive a wind mill, and those who wish to have something much better and yet not invest money in complicated and expensive machinery, such as engines, will do well to

purchase one of our level-tread powers. The power is always ready and any one who can drive or ride the family horse can attend to the pumping when the regular farm help is busily engaged in the performance of other duties, as in harvest-time, when absent from home, etc.

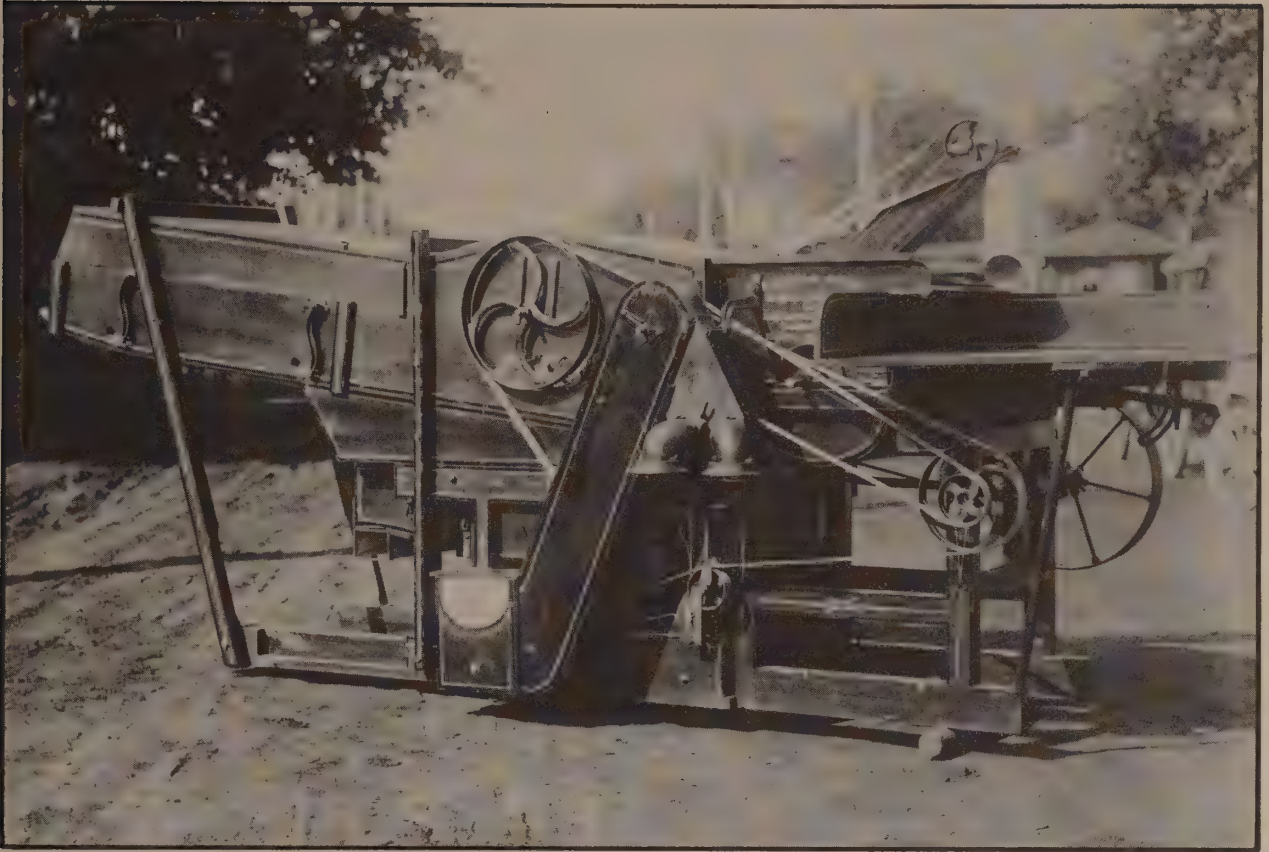


When desired the power may be used for various purposes other than for pumping water, as the machine can easily be moved from place to place. Either the one, two or three-horse powers are furnished with this attachment.



Sweep Power

Heebners'



Threshers and Cleaners



Cut-away View of the "Pennsylvania" Thresher

The Pennsylvania Thresher

This machine could be driven by any kind of power. In some sections it was driven by water power; some people used steam power, some had old style sweep power, many used the level tread horse power and many were driven by gasoline engines. All that was required for it to run was to speed the machine properly. The calculation was made from the cylinder.

The framework of the machine was made of hardwood throughout. This frame was made in the most substantial manner possible, being firmly bolted together. The cylinder, a very important part of the thresher, had a steel shaft of the best quality. The heads were made of gray iron and the bars that held the teeth were of steel of good weight. These bars were rounded on the outer surface instead of having sharp corners. The holes cut through the bars to receive the teeth were square, not round. This prevented the teeth from turning and getting out of alignment. Cylinder teeth that had square corners would crack grain. The cylinder heads were forced on the shaft under heavy pressure, making them so tight that they never loosened. The bars were then pinned to the solid heads, and heavy bands of wrought iron were shrunk on the ends of the cylinder, holding the bars firmly, preventing them from getting loose. The teeth were drop-hammer forged, making them very tough and strong. The steady motion of the cylinder when running at full threshing speed would show that it was carefully balanced. This was an important consideration. An unbalanced cylinder, especially a cylinder having a cross balance, would require more power to drive it. The cylinder was the balance wheel for the thresher and it was important for it to have good weight. The cylinder boxes were perfectly adjustable and were bab-bited with a good quality of anti-friction metal. Roller bearings in the boxes were furnished on special order. The sides of the thresher, at the ends of the cylinder and above the frame, were made of gray iron and were almost everlasting. These sides were so formed, and the construction of the other parts of the machine about the cylinder was such as to cause a suction of air, which would carry dust through with the straw and away from the man feeding the machine.

The concave bed was made of a solid piece of gray iron and hung on a bolt at the front, which passed through the iron thresher sides. At the rear, it was held in position by a hand screw at the top of the machine. This hand screw would raise and lower the concave while the machine was running. The shaker bottom, over which the straw passed after leaving the cylinder, was made of galvanized sheet steel and was perforated. While the machine was in motion a number of

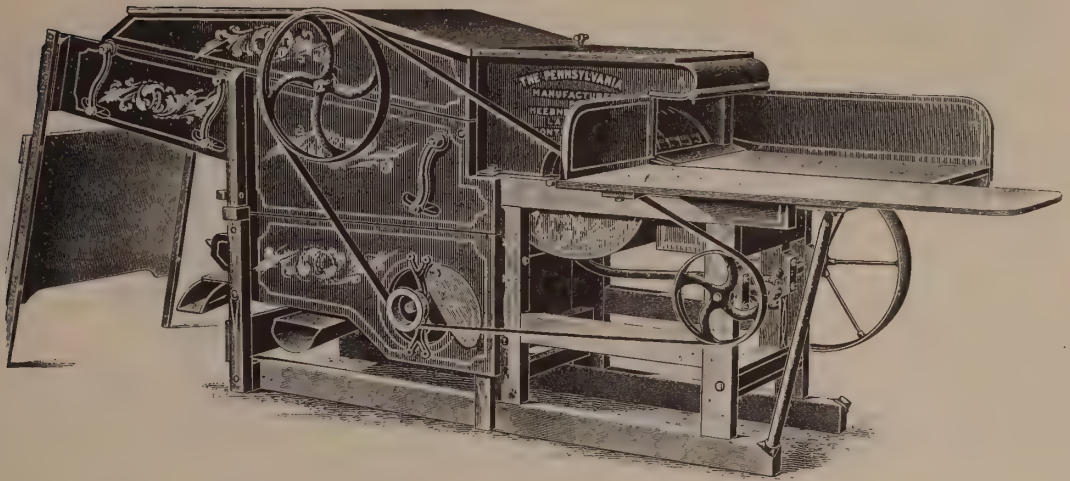
forks, having an up-and-down movement, kept in motion and beat the straw from in under. The revolving apron kept the straw from wrapping around the cylinder. It allowed the thresher opportunity to thresh for a longer time and prevented a waste of grain, because the space in back of the cylinder was entirely closed on the sides and at the top of the thresher.

The Pitman was the best crank shaft on the market. It was forged out of steel, with bearings turning perfectly true. It ran so lightly that it appeared almost frictionless. The Pitman was made of tubular steel, with a box designed so that all wear could be taken up in a few minutes. The fan ran lightly and created a wind blast which enabled the operator to thoroughly clean large quantities of grain, no matter how dusty or dirty it was. The wind blast could be adjusted while the machine was in motion, so that there would be no waste of grain and yet the grain would be cleaned thoroughly, that is, made ready for market, just as it was delivered from the machine. Sieves were furnished to enable the operator to thresh all kinds of grain.

The Pennsylvania thresher was nicely designed and was also finished very attractively. The machine was painted with two coats of paint, the final coat being vermilion. It was artistically ornamented and varnished. The machine could be conditioned for the kind of power used to drive it, the yield of grain or the length of straw desired, etc. In good wheat, using a one horse power, the average threshing was from twelve to fifteen bushels per hour. In good oats, it threshed as much as a bushel a minute. With a gas engine, in good wheat, the capacity was from fifteen to twenty bushels a minute.

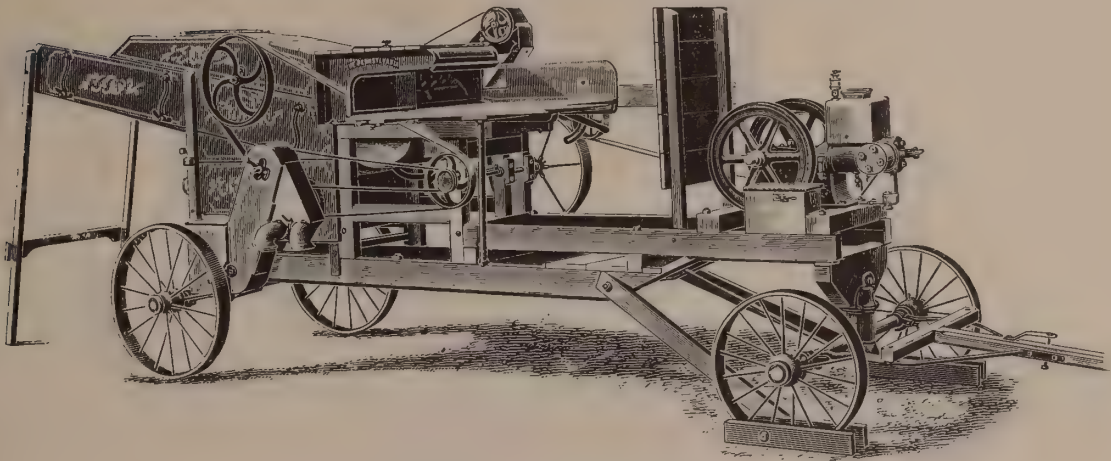
The Pennsylvania thresher was made for use on barn floors and could be furnished with a bagger, tailings elevator and straw carrier. It was an ideal outfit for threshing small crops.

HEEBNERS' "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER.



THE HEEBNER "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER AND CLEANER, as a plain barn-floor machine. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc. Weight, 1,050 lbs.

HEEBNERS' "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER.

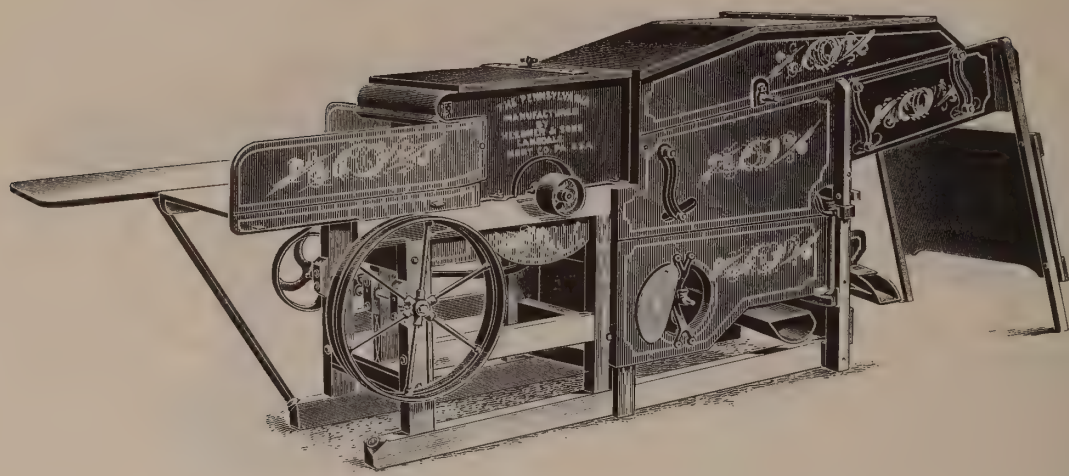


THE HEEBNER "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER AND CLEANER, WITH BAGGER AND TAILINGS ELEVATOR, AND THE HEEBNER-LAUSON 2½-H.P. GASOLINE ENGINE. Mounted on one truck. An ideal outfit for threshermen who thresh small crops. Thresher and engine always in line, and work can commence in five minutes after "pulling" in barn or alongside of grain stack. Straw carrier furnished if desired.

Weights:

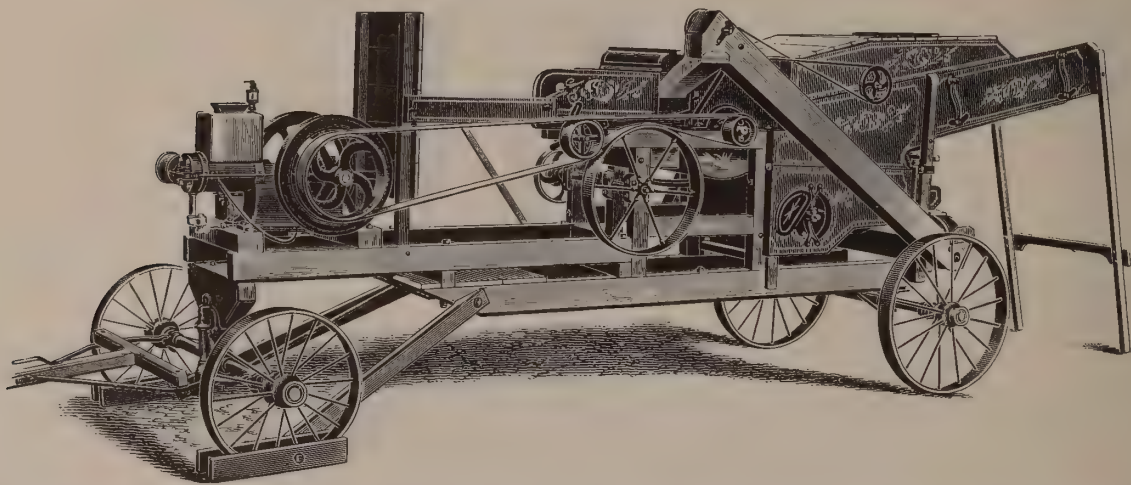
Thresher and Cleaner.....	1,050 lbs.	Tailings Elevator	60 lbs.
Bagger	80 lbs.	Engine (2½ H. P.).....	525 lbs.
		Truck	1,000 lbs.

HEEBNERS' "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER.



THE HEEBNER "PENNSYLVANIA" THRESHER AND CLEANER, as a plain barn-floor machine. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc. Weight, 1,050 lbs.

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Weights:		Tailings Elevator	60 lbs.
Thresher and Cleaner.....	1,050 lbs.	Engine (2½ H. P.).....	525 lbs.
Bagger	80 lbs.	Truck	1,000 lbs.

The Little Giant Thresher

The Little Giant was a strong and durable threshing machine and was sold in three sizes, No.1, No.2 and No.3. Its cylinder was made of wrought iron bars placed cross-wise from end to end. These bars were very strong and had square holes into which the teeth were nicely fitted to prevent them from turning, and were secured with nuts on the inside. The cylinder ran independently, no part of the machine being run from it. This saved the power and enabled it to get speed more quickly.

The concave was of cast iron and very strong. It had five rows of teeth which passed through the iron bed and then through a wooden bolster two inches thick, and which were secured with a nut. The wooden bolster relieved the iron bed from local strains, and prevented it from breaking when stones or other hard substances got into the machine. The concave was made in two parts; one of the parts, which had two rows of teeth, could easily be removed when desired, and a blank with no teeth put in its place. This was done to save power when all the teeth were not needed. In some sections of the country, when grain was mowed, all the teeth in the concave were always needed to thresh the grain clean; also, stones and roots were apt to get into the mowed grain. For this work Heebner's made a concave of one solid piece with great enough strength to resist the stones.

The sides of the threshers were made of solid cast iron, strong and durable. The patent duster was arranged so that the motion of the cylinder sucked in the dust away from the feeder and carried it off with the straw at the rear of the machine. The shaker had a galvanized iron bottom of great strength and durability, and was provided with five sets of beater forks which thoroughly beat the straw as it passed out of the machine so that no grain could get out with the straw. The shaker shaft had two cranks on opposite sides; one crank drove the shaker and the other, a cleaning shoe, counterbalanced the other, preventing the machine from shaking.

The self-adjusting wind regulator gave to the fan in the cleaner a uniform supply of wind without regard to speed. If the speed was slow, the regulator let in more wind, and as the speed increased, the wind was shut off. The regulator was operated by the action of the fan, but by a simple arrangement it could be easily adjusted to give a greater or lesser quantity of wind as desired, and this adjustment could be made when the machine was in operation.

The tailings elevator was not a permanent attachment, but was furnished with the machine at an additional cost. It was easily attached to the side of the machine and was run by a belt from the

crank shaft. The cleaner shoe was strong and durable. Each machine had a shaker support at the rear end that stopped the shaft and prevented it from mixing with the straw.

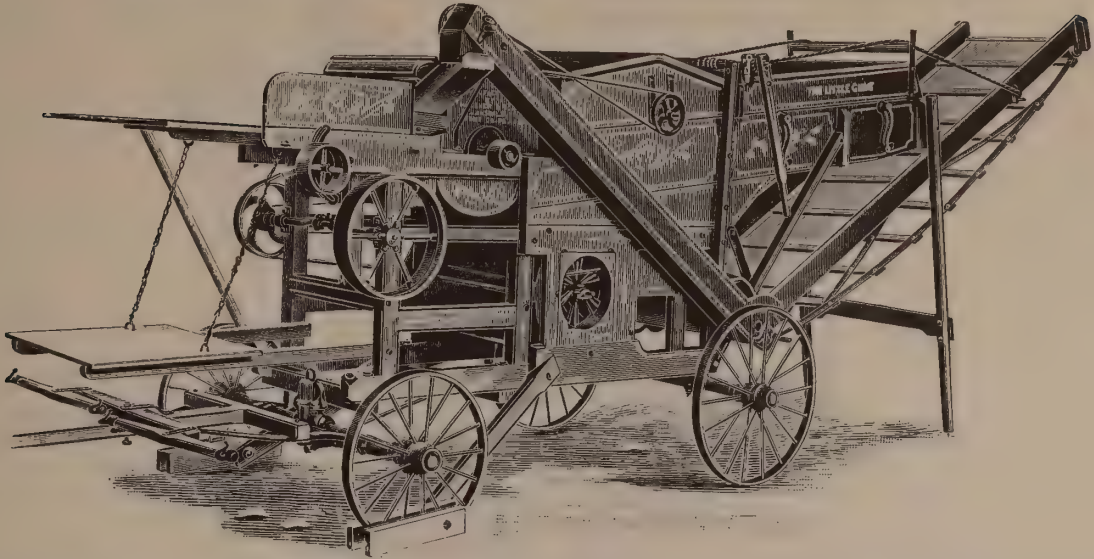
The Little Giant No.1 was run by a two- or three-horse power. The size of the cylinder was 17 x 30 inches and weighed about 1300 pounds. The Little Giant No.2 was run by a two-horse power.

Many farmers who had heavy engines for grinding feed and silo filling would purchase the Little Giant because of the capacity of the thrasher. The cylinder for the Little Giant was constructed in the same manner as the cylinder for the Pennsylvania. However the Little Giant was a heavier and stronger machine in all its parts than the Pennsylvania model.



Thresher Gasoline Engine in Combination

HEEBNERS' "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.

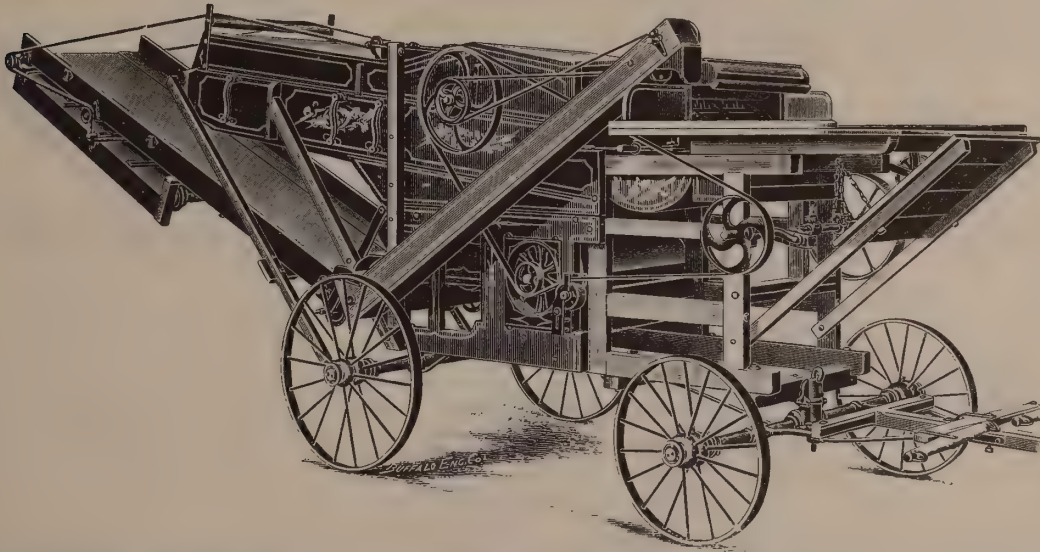


THE HEEBNER "LITTLE GIANT" (No. 2) THRESHER AND CLEANER, with truck, tailings elevator, bagger and straw carrier. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc.

Weights:

Plain Thresher and Cleaner.....	1,475 lbs.	Straw Stacker, 16 feet.....	280 lbs.
Truck	675 lbs.	Tailings Elevator	75 lbs.
		Bagger	75 lbs.

HEEBNERS' "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.

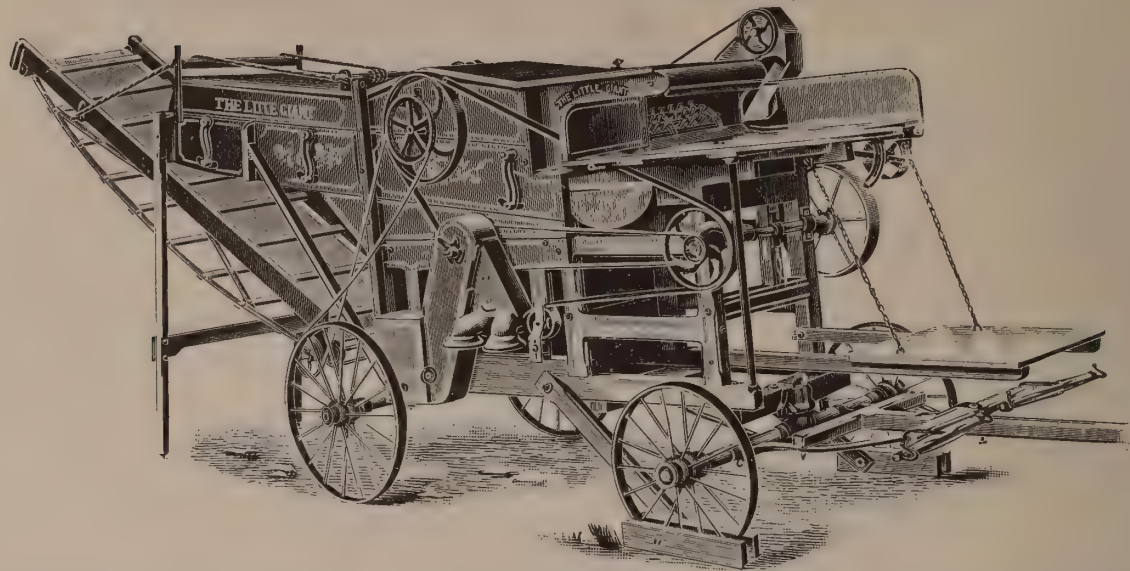


THE HEEBNER "LITTLE GIANT" (No. 1) THRESHER AND CLEANER, with truck, tailings elevator, bagger and straw carrier. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc.

Weights:

Plain Thresher and Cleaner.....	2,100 lbs.	Straw Stacker, 16 feet.....	280 lbs.
Truck	675 lbs.	Tailings Elevator	75 lbs.
		Bagger	75 lbs.

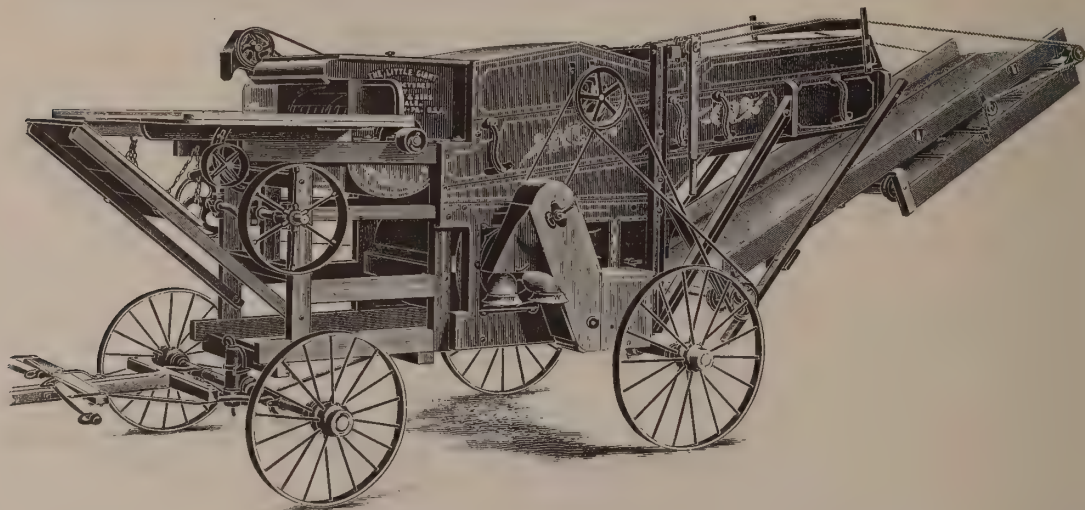
HEEBNER'S "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.



THE HEEBNER "LITTLE GIANT" (No. 2) THRESHER AND CLEANER, with truck, tailings elevator, bagger and straw carrier. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc.

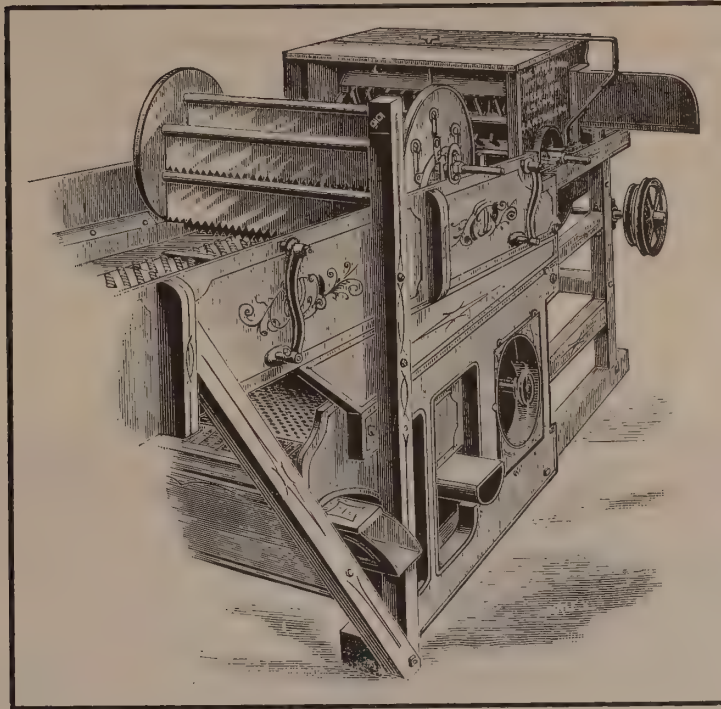
Weights:			
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HEEBNER'S "LITTLE GIANT" THRESHER AND CLEANER.



THE HEEBNER "LITTLE GIANT" (No. 1) THRESHER AND CLEANER, with truck, tailings elevator, bagger and straw carrier. Will thresh and clean wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax, sorghum, Kaffir corn, rice, grass seeds, cow peas, etc.

Weights:			
Plain Thresher and Cleaner.....	2,100 lbs.	Straw Stacker, 16 feet.....	280 lbs.
Truck	675 lbs.	Tailings Elevator	75 lbs.
		Bagger	75 lbs.



Revolving Apron Shown in Shaker

Size of Cylinder, Power, and Capacity of Heebner Threshers per Hour

Thresher Sizes	No. 3 Penna.	No. 3½ Penna.	No. 2 Little Giant	No. 1 Little Giant
Size of cylinder	21 in.	21 in.	26 in.	30 in.
Power required for operation .	4-H. P.	4-H. P.	6-H. P.	8-H. P.
In oats	30 to 50 bu.	40 to 60 bu.	45 to 65 bu.	50 to 80 bu.
In wheat	15 to 25 bu.	15 to 35 bu.	20 to 40 bu.	30 to 50 bu.
In peas	5 to 20 bu.	5 to 25 bu.	10 to 25 bu.	15 to 40 bu.
In peanuts	20 to 30 bu.	20 to 40 bu.	30 to 50 bu.	50 to 75 bu.

Dimensions of Heebner Threshers

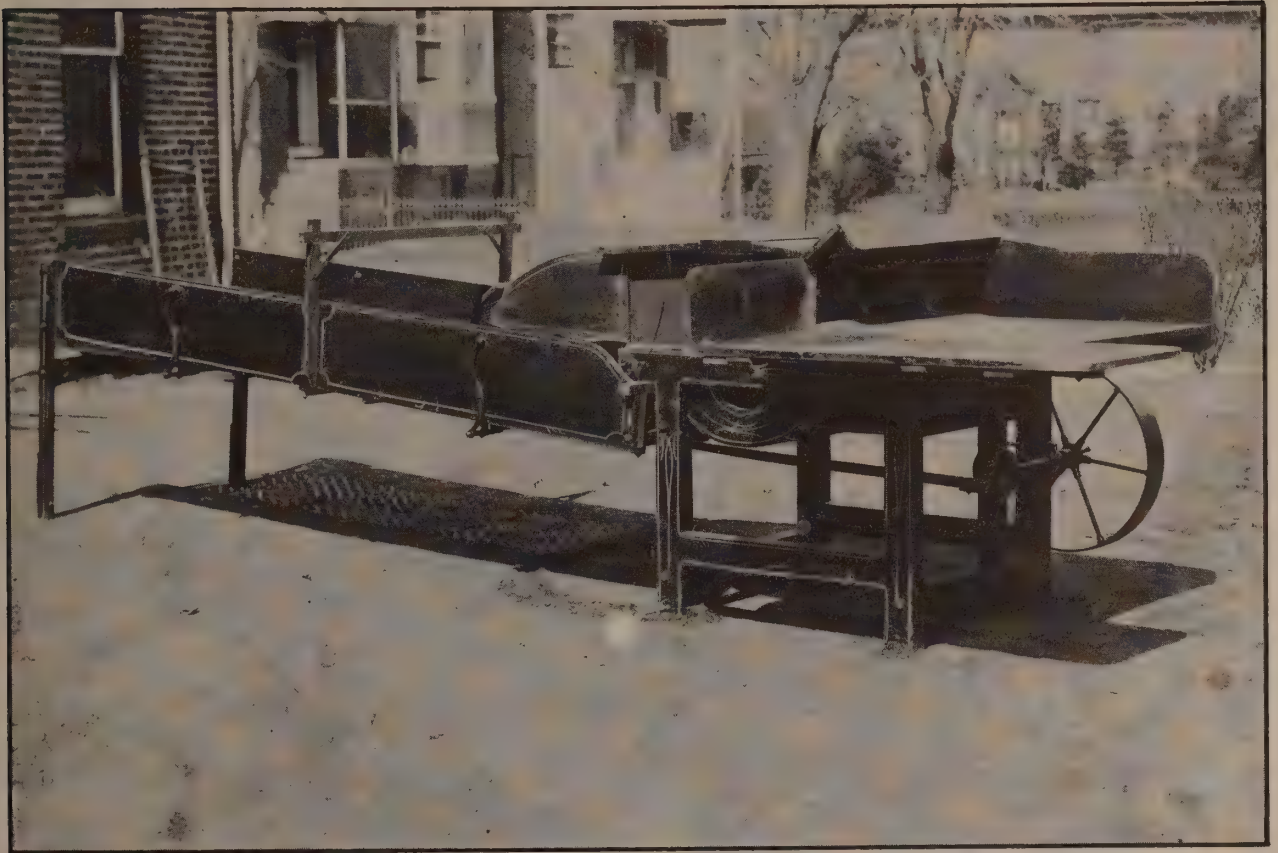
Thresher Sizes	Height	Length	Width
No. 3 Pennsylvania	5 ft.	13 ft. 8 in.	4 ft. 4 in.
No. 3½ Pennsylvania	5 ft. 3½ in.	13 ft. 8 in.	4 ft. 10 in.
No. 2 Little Giant	5 ft. 5 in.	16 ft.	4 ft. 10 in.
No. 1 Little Giant	5 ft. 10½ in.	16 ft. 8 in.	6 ft. 7 in.

Weights of Heebner Threshers and Attachments

(Approximate)

No. 3 Pennsylvania, without truck	1150 lbs.
No. 3½ Pennsylvania, without truck	1400 lbs.
No. 2 Little Giant, without truck	1725 lbs.
No. 1 Little Giant, without truck	1900 lbs.
Regular Truck with attachments, for No. 3, 3½ Pennsylvania and No. 2 Little Giant. metal wheels and axles	675 lbs.
Regular Truck with attachments, for No. 1 Little Giant, metal wheels and axles	875 lbs.
Combination Truck with attachments, for No. 3 and 3½ Pennsylvania for 4 or 6 H. P. engine	1200 lbs.
Combination Truck with attachments, for No. 2 and 1 Little Giant, for 6 or 8 H. P. engine	1300 lbs.
Brake for any of the above trucks	85 lbs.
14-ft. Folding Straw Stacker, for No. 3 Pennsylvania	215 lbs.
14-ft. Folding Straw Stacker, for No. 3½ Pennsylvania	300 lbs.
16-ft. Folding Straw Stacker, for No. 2 and 1 Little Giant	340 lbs.
Angle Attachment for Stacker	140 lbs.
Long Grain Elevator for all size threshers	200 lbs.
Tailings Elevator for all size threshers	90 lbs.
Grain Bagger, for all size threshers	146 lbs.
Pea and Bean Attachment, for No. 3 and 3½ Pennsylvania	175 lbs.
Pea and B-an Attachment, for No. 2 Little Giant	190 lbs.
Pea and Bean Attachment, for No. 1 Little Giant	235 lbs.
Peanut Attachment, for No. 3 and 3½ Pennsylvania	200 lbs.
Peanut Attachment, for No. 2 Little Giant	240 lbs.
Peanut Attachment, for No. 1 Little Giant	280 lbs.

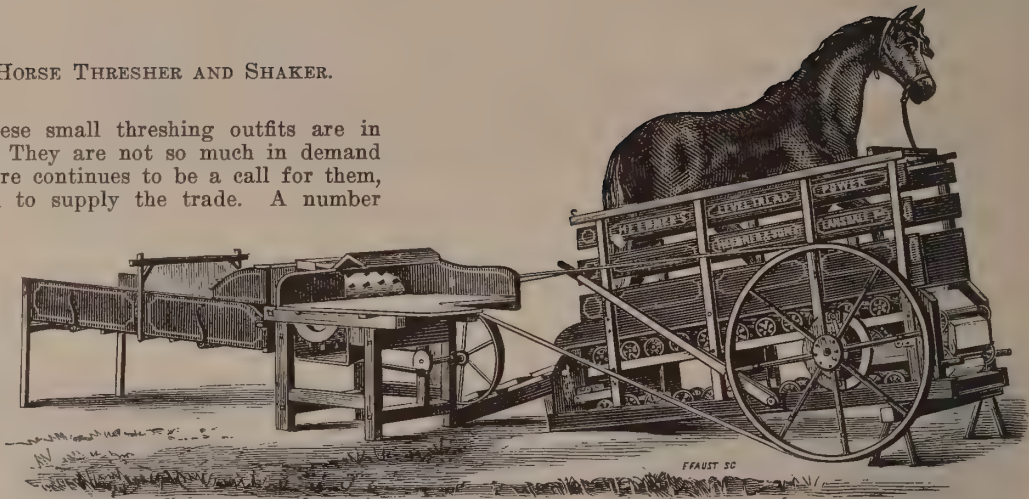
A smaller thresher and shaker was designed for small farmers. This was known as a Ground Hog thresher. It would thresh all kinds of grains separating them from the straw only. The shaker had a vibrating bottom made of sheet iron, perforated with small half round holes through which the grain fell. The straw was carried off in the rear. This thresher only weighed 300 pounds and was operated by a one-horse tread power.



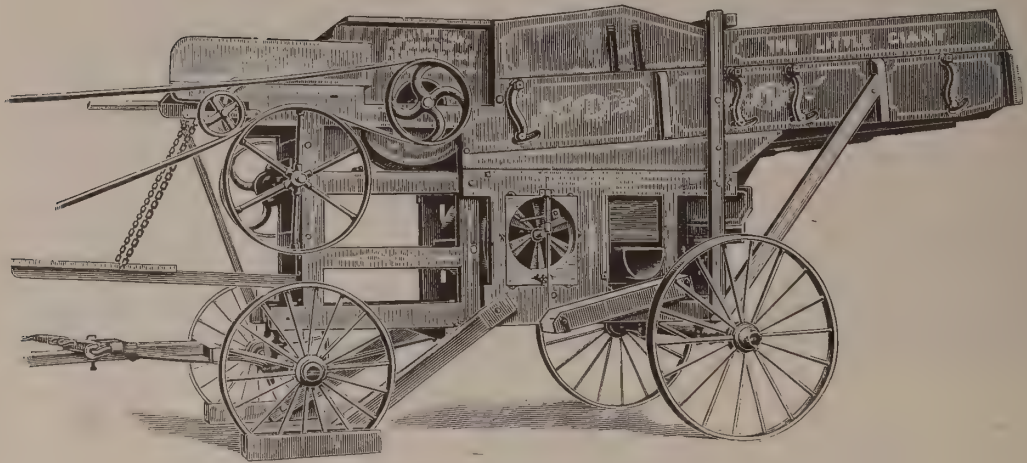
*Small Ground Hog
Thresher*

HEEBNERS' ONE-HORSE THRESHER AND SHAKER.

Thousands of these small threshing outfits are in use on small farms. They are not so much in demand of late years, but there continues to be a call for them, and we are prepared to supply the trade. A number of improvements have been made in the thresher, notably in the cylinder. This is now made with steel bars and steel teeth, much like the cylinders in our threshers and cleaners. These little outfits enable the farmer to be independent



HEEBNERS' "LITTLE GIANT" PEANUT THRESHER.

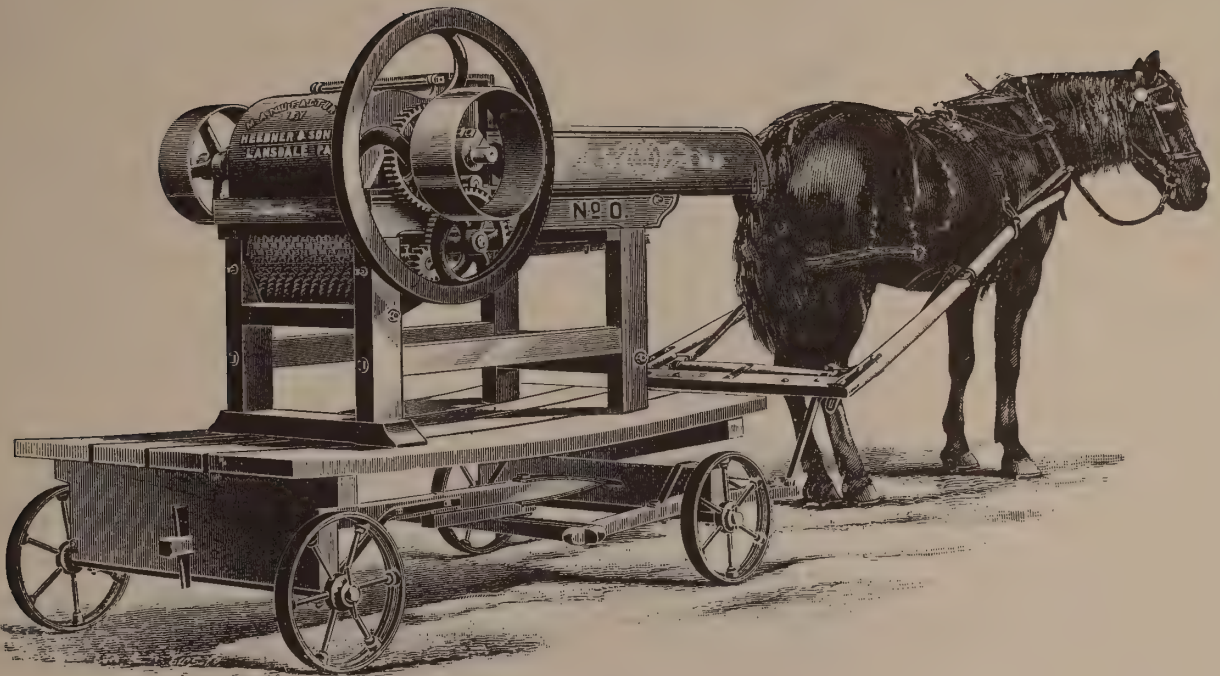


Weights:

Plain Peanut Thresher (No. 2 "Little
Giant") 1,825 lbs.

Truck for mounting same..... 675 lbs.
Tailings elevator 75 lbs.

Heebners' Union



Feed and Ensilage Cutter

The Union Feed Cutter

This cutter was strongly and firmly built and was of sufficient weight to make it stand steady while at work. It had four knives, which were adjustable, and were placed in such a manner as to give it a shear cut. The knife cap was easily removed when it became necessary to get at the knives to adjust them. It fed itself by means of rollers, which readily adjusted themselves to the nature and quantity of fodder passing between them. They were held together by means of a weighted lever (instead of wooden springs, as is generally the case in other cutters), thus giving a more even pressure. It had but two cog wheels in all its gearing. The band wheel could be used on either side of the machine.

The firm made three sizes; No. 1 1/2, No. 2 1/2, and No. 3 1/2. The No. 1 1/2 was the larger machine, intended more especially for cutting ensilage for large silos, and was run by steam or a four or six horse gasoline engine. The No. 2 1/2 was easily run by a one-horse tread power when the crusher was not connected; when the crusher was connected, it required a two horse power. The No. 3 1/2 was made especially so that it could be run by a one horse tread power when the crusher was attached.

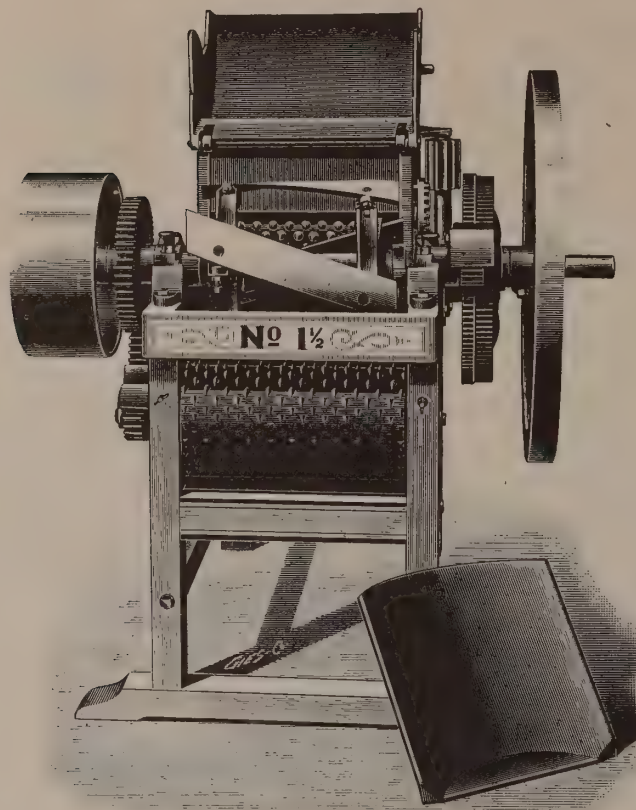
The length of the knives in the No. 1 1/2 was 16 inches, in the No. 2 1/2, 12 inches, and the No. 3 1/2, 10 inches.

The Union feed cutter had a grinding and crushing attachment which worked on the principle of a threshing cylinder. It consisted of an iron cylinder and a concave, both having small sharp teeth attached to the cutter: under the knives the cut feed dropped from the knives directly into the grinder. The cylinder ran at a high rate of speed, grinding and bruising the feed, rendering it very palatable for the stock, so that they ate it cleanly and completely. Farmers appreciated the great value of this grinder, especially when feeding corn stalks, for it reduced the entire stalk to fine feed, leaving no hard pieces with sharp edges that would cut and injure the mouths of cattle when eating it as was the case when stalks were split by means of the cutting attachments that were used on some feed cutters. A great amount of feed was saved by using this attachment. The operation of the grinder was such that it threw the feed away from the machine, thus saving an extra hand to rake it away. When not needed, it could be instantly ungeared, and a shute adjusted to conduct the feed away from it. This attachment was not sold with the cutter.

The firm also made a small cutter, which was the No. 4. The machine had two knives and these were 8 inches in length. It was

operated by hand power and was used by farmers who kept only a few head of horses or cattle. The machine was geared to speed the knives rapidly while the crank turned slowly, which made the work easy for man or boy. The machine weighed only 140lbs.

HEEBNER'S "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTERS.



No. 1 1/2 "UNION" Cutter with Crusher attached

The No. 1 1/2 Cutter has four 16 inch knives and makes four lengths of cut, 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch and 1 inch. By removing some of the knives and using a special weight, fodder can be cut 2 inches and longer.

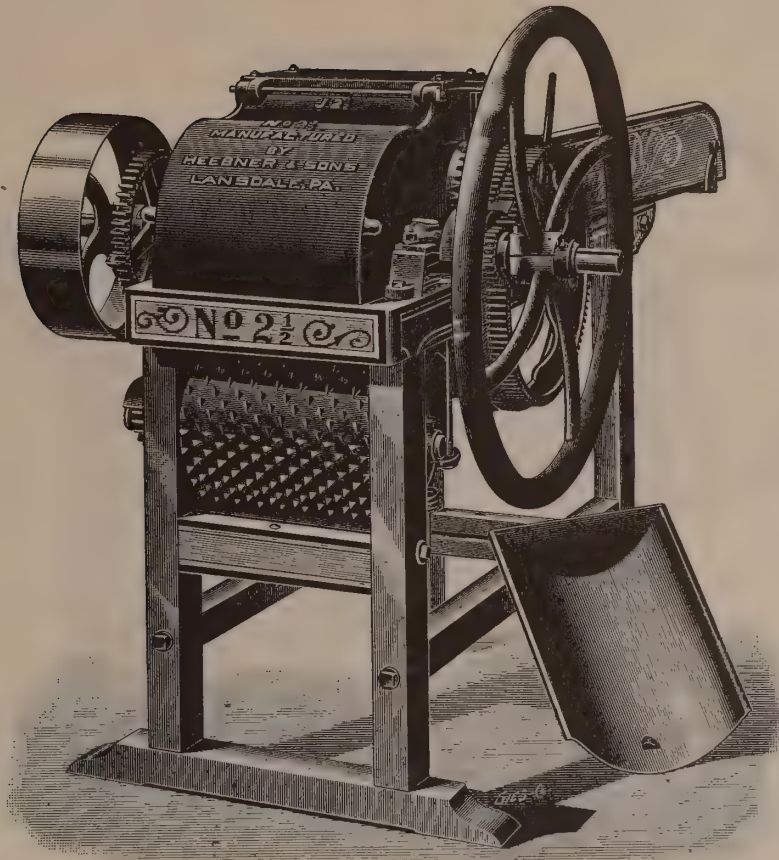
Weight of No. 1 1/2 Cutter

525 lbs.

Weight of Crusher

175 lbs.

HEEBNER'S "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTERS.



No. 2 1/2 "UNION" Cutter with Crusher Attachment, set up for crushing and cutting

The No. 2 1/2 cutter has four 12 inch knives and is made with four lengths of cut, 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch and 1 inch. The Heebner cutters are equipped with a stop-feed lever, which stops the roll instantly.

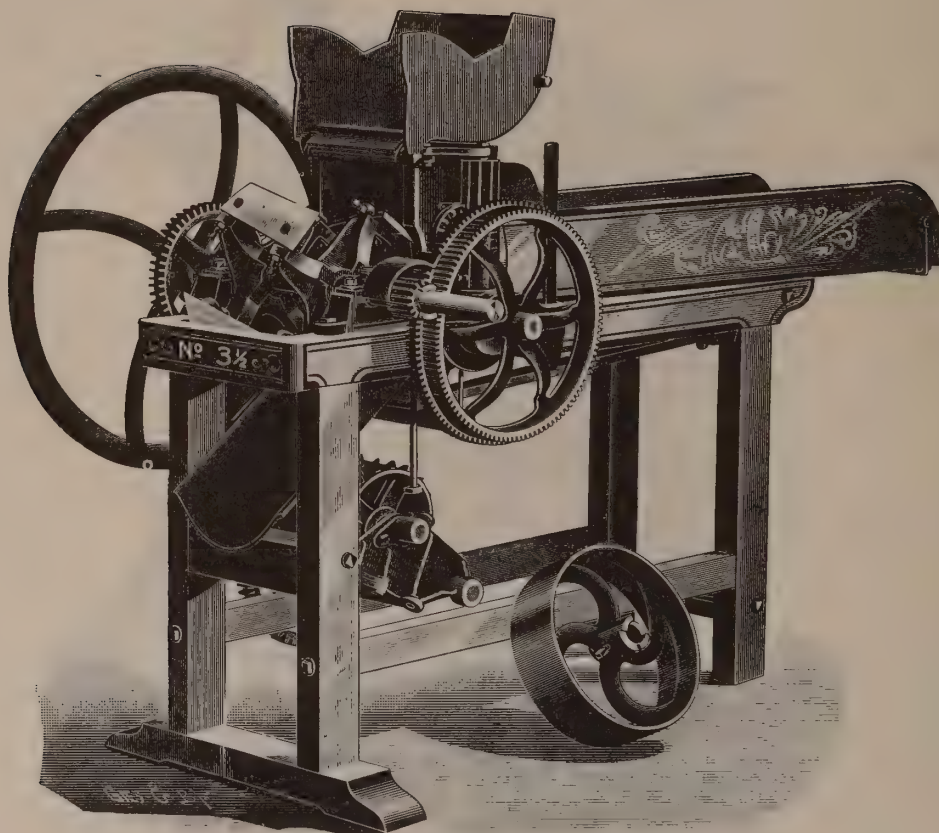
Weight of No. 2 1/2 Cutter

500 lbs.

Weight of Crusher

80 lbs.

HEEBNER'S "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTER



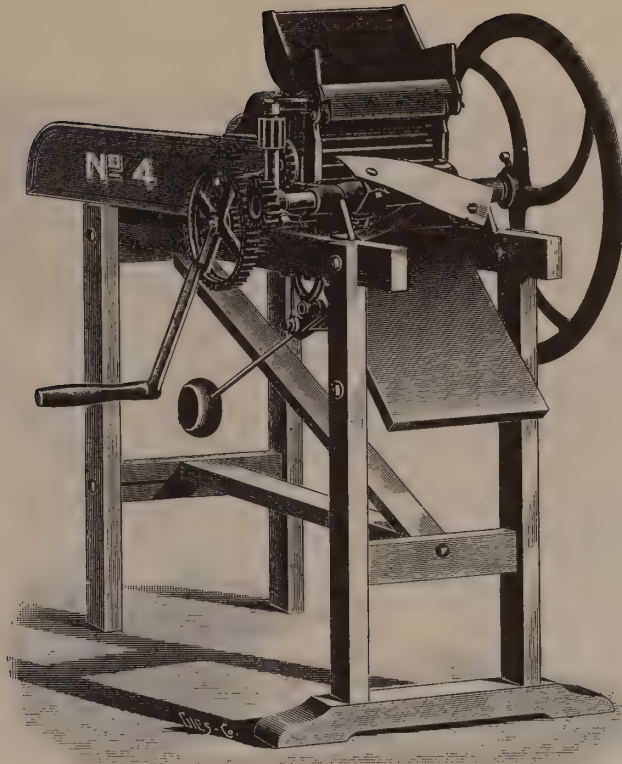
No. 3 1/2 "UNION" Cutter with Crusher attached, set up for plain cutting, the crusher being out of gear.

The No. 3 1/2 cutter has four knives 10 inches long, and is made with four lengths of cut 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch and 1 inch (only two lengths furnished with cutter). Furnished with two fly wheels and two cranks that it may be operated by hand.

Weight of No. 3 1/2 Cutter
Weight of Crusher

425 lbs.
105 lbs.

HEEBNER'S "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTERS.

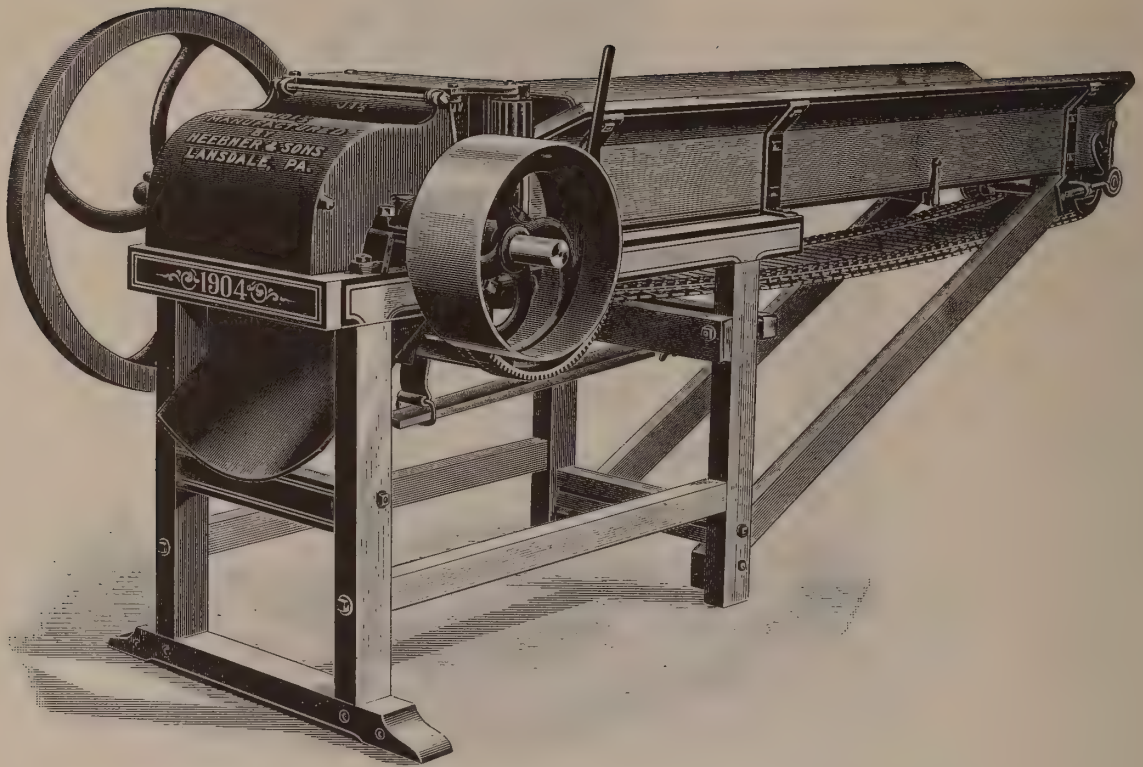


No. 4 "UNION" Cutter

Weight of No. 4 Cutter

140 lbs.

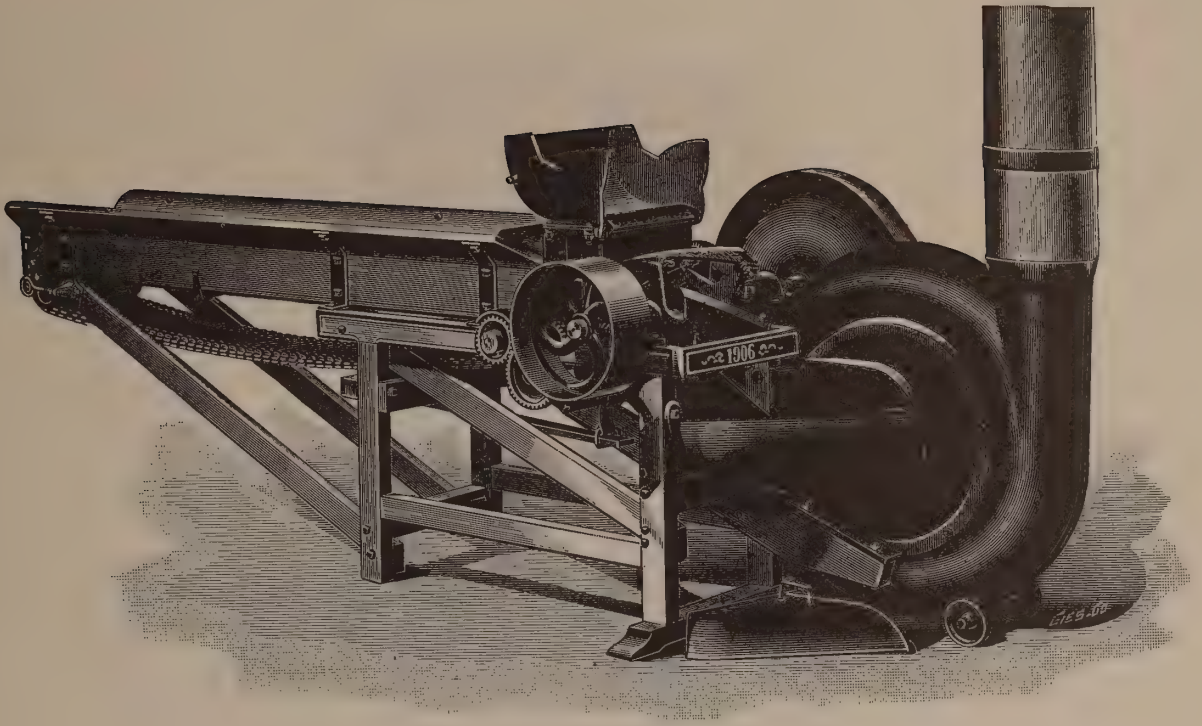
HEEBNERS' "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTER



No. 1 1/2 "UNION" cutter with travelling table

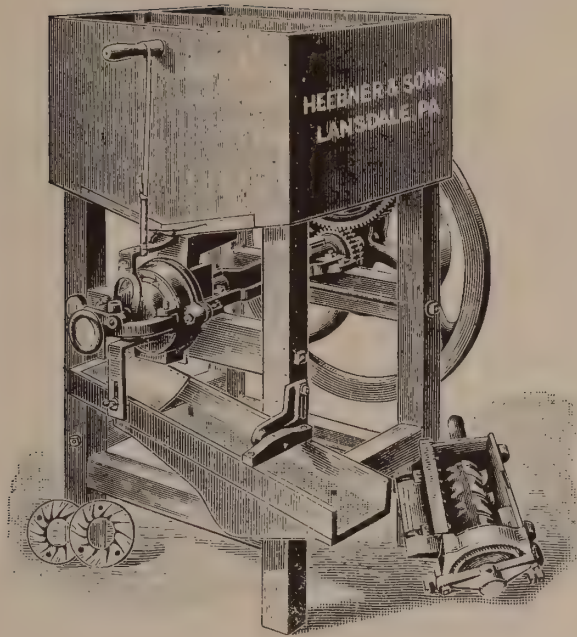
This cutter can also be equipped with blower, and self-feed attachment. The UNION cutters are more simple in their construction than any other. They have less gearing, fewer parts, require less power to run them, and consequently can do more work than any other cutter. Each part is made sufficiently strong to withstand the severest strain under all circumstances. The self-feed table is made of standard chain belting, and fastens to both ends of wooden slats.

HEEBNERS' "UNION" FEED AND ENSILAGE CUTTER



No. 1 1/2 "UNION" cutter with travelling table and blower attached.
Leads all competitors in design, finish, and light running qualities.

Heebners'



Farm Feed Mill

The Farm Feed Mill

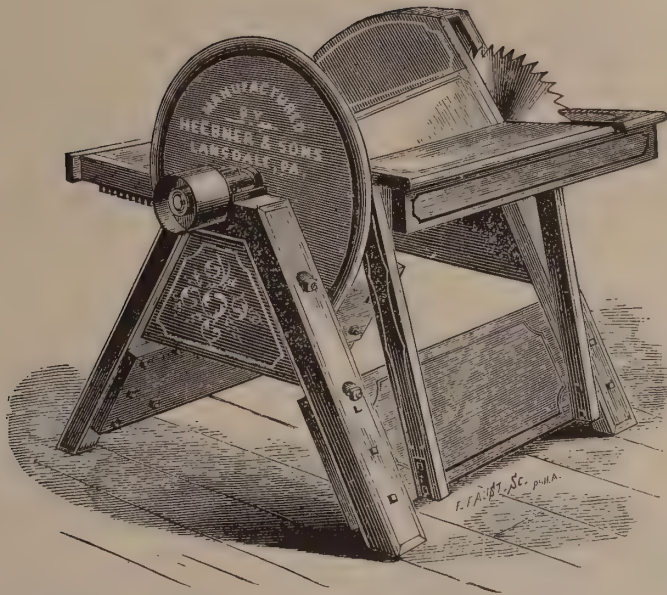
The frame was made of hardwood, held together by long bolts that extended from side to side. The shaft frame was one solid piece of iron extending the entire length of the mill and was firmly bolted to the main frame. The shaft ran in two long bearings in a single piece of iron, and the bearings were thus always in line. The journals were made in half boxes, well babbited with the best of metal, and could be adjusted when worn. To prevent accident to the grinding plates, in the event that some hard substance be fed into the mill, the yoke that held the temper screw in place was fastened with a wooden pin which would break and allow the plates to part, and thus avert serious accident.

The cob breaker was an extra attachment placed within the hopper of the mill, and was run by a gear from the main shaft. It would break the cobs sufficiently finely to be ground in the mill into which they fell upon leaving the breaker. The combined breaker and grinder was the fastest and most efficient grinder for ear corn produced to be used with light power. The mill was made to be operated with a level tread horse power but could also be run by steam, water or gasoline engine. A set of grinding plates would grind from 800 to 1200 bushels of grain. When operated with a two horse level tread power, the mill would grind from 12 to 20 bushels per hour; and with the cob cursher attachment, it would grind from 8 to 15 bushels, according to fineness. A one-horse power ran the plain mill without the cob crusher and ground from 5 to 10 bushels per hour. The weight of the plain farm feed mill was 221 lbs., the weight of the mill with crusher attached was 321 lbs.



The Farm Feed Mill owned by Sam Kriebel

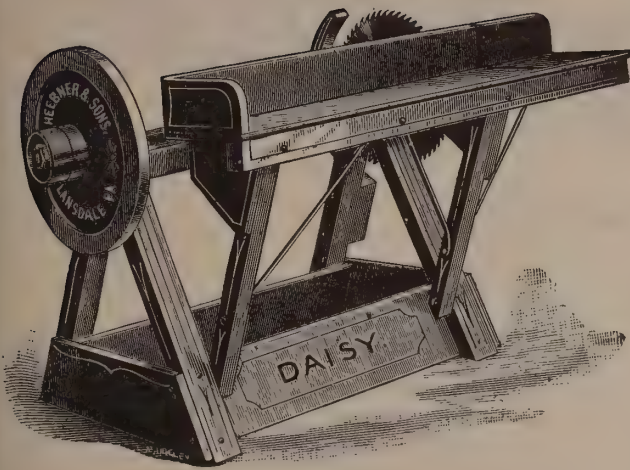
Heebners'



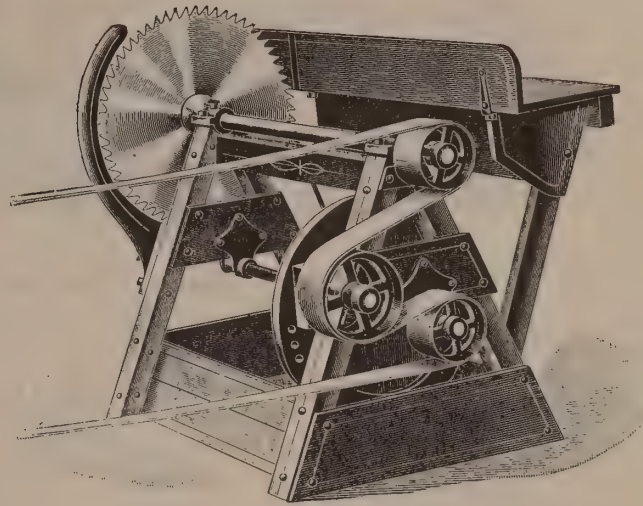
Saw Machines

The Daisy Saw Machine

This was a strong and durable machine with a large web balance wheel, which was safer than a wheel with spokes. The table worked with a rack and pinion, causing it to run perfectly true and easy. It also had a shield for the saw so that when the table was drawn forward the saw was covered to prevent accident by anything coming in contact with it. The table extended beyond the saw so that the piece of wood that was sawed off would rest upon it until pushed off by the next piece of wood. This prevented the necessity of having a man to hold the end of the wood while being sawed. The size of the saw was 24 inches, but Heebner's made other sizes on special orders. This saw was very popular with the United States government which ordered many for the standing army. By using the Daisy saw, long pieces of wood could be cut and worked up into firewood much more easily than with a machine having the table closed at one end. With the balance wheel under the table, the wood could extend and did not interfere with the belt or pulley. A strong power was required to run this saw.



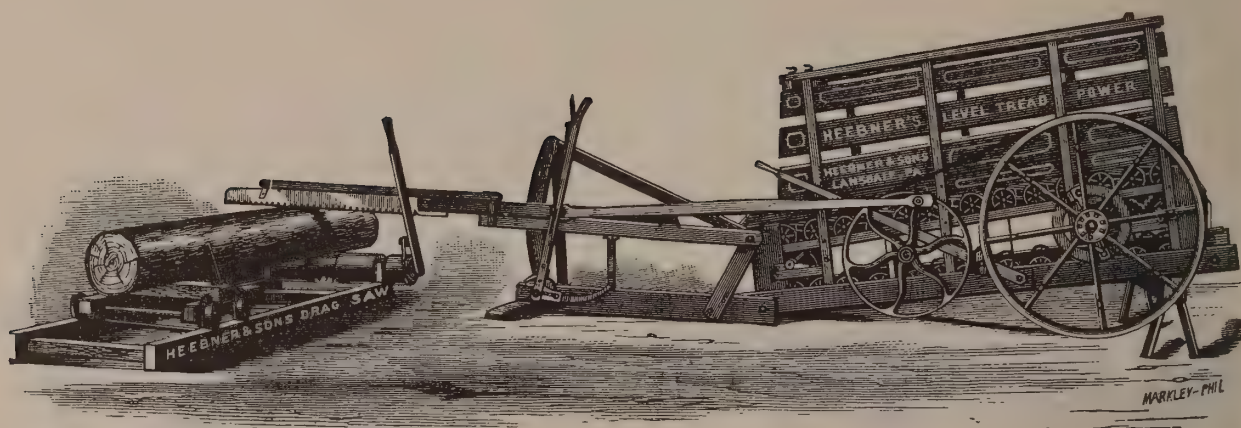
"Daisy" Cord Wood Saw Machine



"Daisy" Pole Saw Machine

The Drag Saw Machine

This machine was used for sawing logs of any size into suitable lengths for firewood. The machine was run by one or two horses and was driven by a belt from the band wheel of the horse power. It was easily and quickly attached to the power by a few bolts. The compactness of the machine was such that the attendant had, while in one and the same position, full command of the brake and saw lever, as well as the log lever. The balance wheel attached to the power had a crank that drove the saw and this crank could be adjusted to give the saw a stroke of two feet if desired. An extra attachment was made, on special order, by which the drag saw machine could be operated by steam or water power. The weight of the drag saw was 475 lbs.

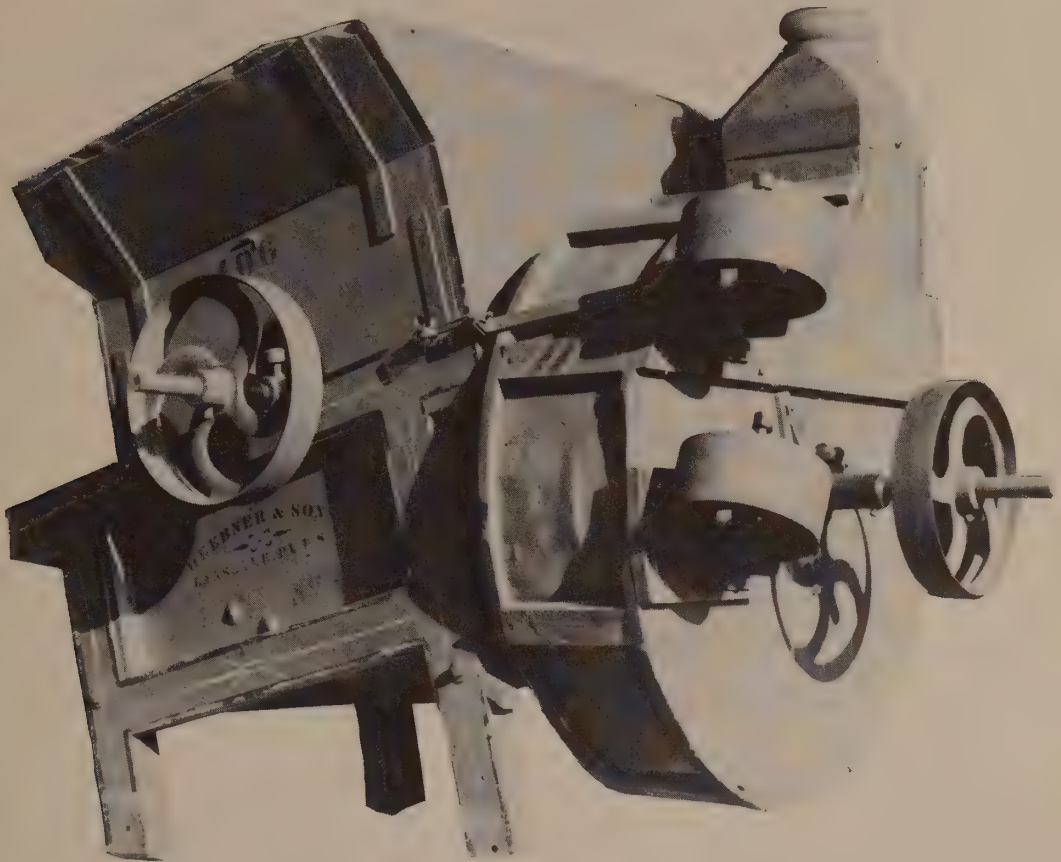


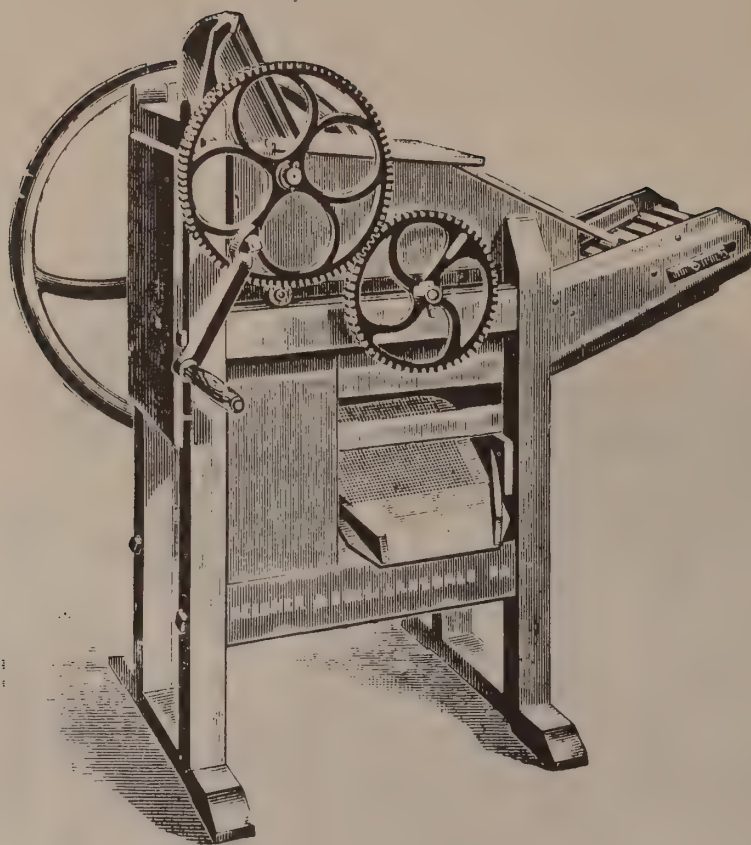
Heebners' Improved Drag Saw Machine

Other Heebner Products

Straw Cutter with Blower

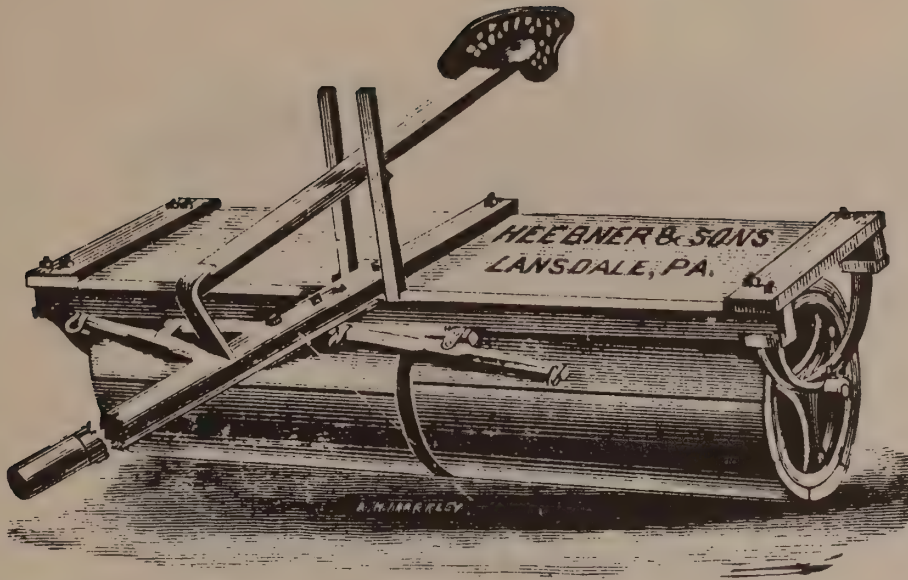
This cutter and blower could be used in connection with any small thresher. It not only cut the straw, but tore and shredded it. It was practically a self-feeding machine with no rolls or gears. The cutter with blower attached was placed at the rear of the machine, the straw dropping into the cutter by gravity. It was driven from the cylinder shaft with a double pulley having a special hub.





Heebners' Corn Sheller

Made in two sizes. One hole and two hole.



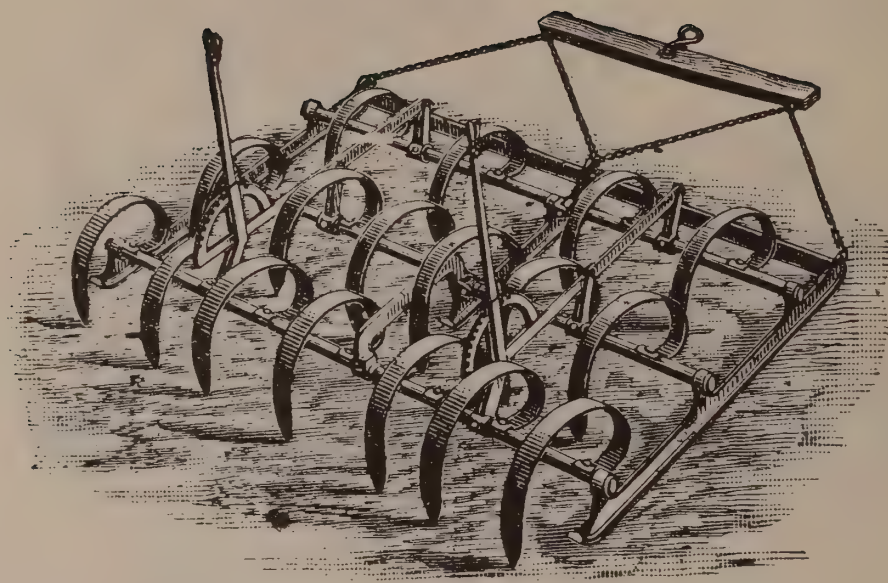
Heebners' Land Roller

The roller is made of first class material. It has cast iron heads that adjust themselves to the shrinking and swelling of the staves. The staves are made of Oak. The axle extends the entire length of the roller.

Furnished with doubletree and neck yoke complete. Two sizes.

No. 1 — 8 feet long, 24" diameter.

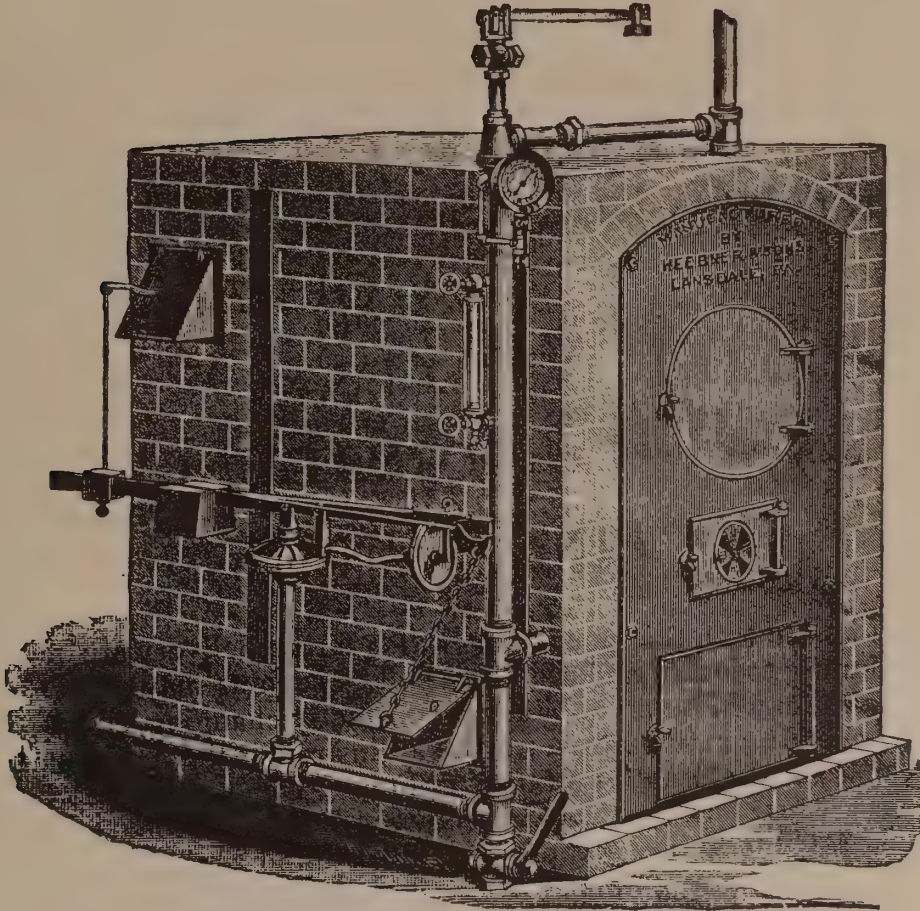
No. 2 — 7 feet long, 22" diameter.



Spring Tooth Harrow

Levers work so easily that they yield to the touch of a child, and can be thrown forward so as to lift the teeth from the ground and convert harrow into a sled. Three sizes: 15, 17 and 19 teeth.

Heebners' Steam Heater



THE BEST STEAM HEATER IN THE WORLD.

Adapted for Dwelling Houses, School Houses, Factories, &c.

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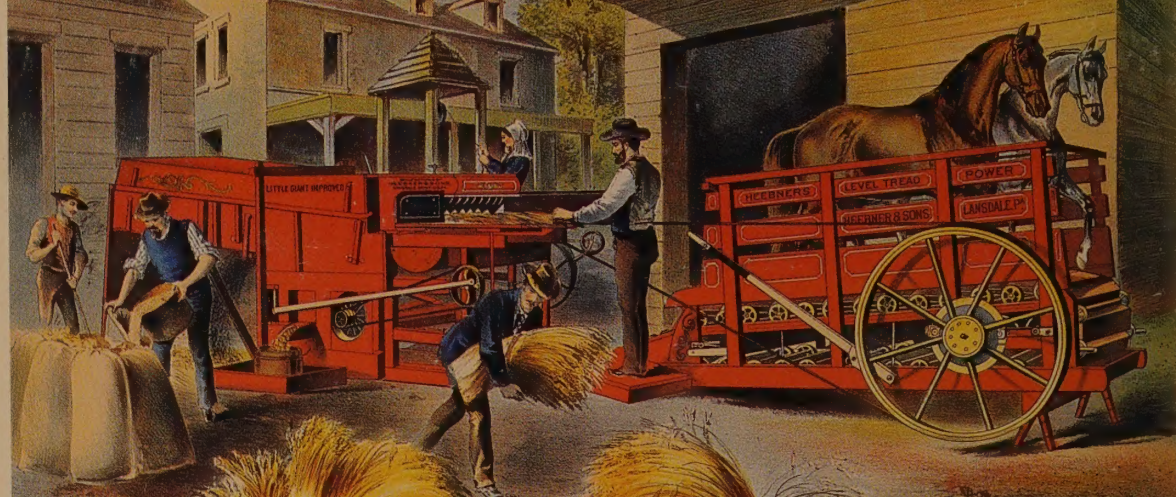
8 25-3m

Heebner & Sons, Manufacturers, Lansdale, Pa.

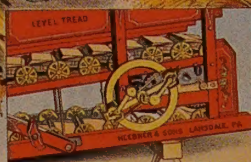
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HEEBNER'S PATENT LEVEL TREAD HORSE POWERS



& LITTLE GIANT



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